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'WRONGFUL DELETIONS'

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Meet to mark BSY's 50 years of political life

BENGALURU
The Bharatiya Janata Party is set to hold a massive convention in Chitradurga in May to mark five decades of the political career by its veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa. » PAGE 6

Flight from Abu Dhabi lands at KIA

BENGALURU
Flight operations from the West Asia region to Bengaluru, which were suspended since February 28, resumed on Monday night with an Etihad flight from Abu Dhabi landing at KIA. » PAGE 3

West Asia war escalates, spikes oil, strands flyers

Iran targets U.S. assets, Israel, Arab states; 3 jets fell in Kuwaiti 'friendly fire', says U.S., Tehran claims shooting down one; Qatar takes down 2 Iranian bombers; U.S. 'will no longer be safe' warns Iran

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran and allied armed groups fired missiles at Israel, Arab states, and U.S. military targets around the region on Monday, while Israel and the U.S. pounded the West Asian country as the war expanded to several fronts and death toll grew on all sides.

Three American warplanes were downed in Kuwait, which the Pentagon said were hit by Kuwaiti "friendly fire", while Iran claimed it shot down a U.S. jet.

The conflict, in its third day, was already having far-reaching consequences, with previously safe havens in the Gulf seeing incoming fire, hundreds of thousands of airline passengers stranded around the globe, and oil prices shooting up by more than 8% to hover around the $80 a barrel mark as of mid-day on Monday.

Warning plume: Smoke rises from a warehouse in Sharjah City in the UAE following Iranian strikes. AP

The Iranian Red Crescent Society said that the U.S.-Israeli strikes have killed at least 555 people. In Israel, where several locations were hit by Iranian missiles, 11 people were killed. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group also targeted Israel, which responded with strikes on Lebanon, killing more than two dozen people. Four U.S. troops have also been killed.

The chaos of the conflict became apparent when the U.S. said Kuwait had "mistakenly shot down" three American F-15E Strike Eagles while Iranian attacks were under way. Iranian Armed Forces said they have shot down an advanced U.S. F-15 fighter jet near the border with Kuwait. Qatar's Air Force downed two Iranian bombers, its Defence Ministry said.

"We will not negotiate with the United States", Iran's top security official, Ali Larijani, said on Monday after several air strikes hit Tehran, even as Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned the U.S. that it will "no longer be safe".

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WAR FOR UNIPOLAR REGION
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India, Canada ink uranium deal as Carney meets Modi

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and Canada on Monday agreed to a $1.9 billion, 10-year uranium supply deal for Indian nuclear power reactors, and agreed to conclude the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) this year, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in New Delhi in an effort to establish "strategic trust" and reset ties ruptured over the past few years.

However, issues over the killing of Canadian-Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar persisted after new reports that Canadian investigative agencies believe two officials in the Indian Consulate in Vancouver were linked to the case, a charge that India rejected.

After the talks between the Prime Ministers, India and Canada announced a number of agreements including a Strategic Energy Partnership in the fields of renewable energy, LPG and uranium supplies, and cooperation in critical and emerging technologies, as well as MoUs on education and culture.

Fruitful talks: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

They also issued the "Terms of Reference" for the CEPA or free trade negotiations, aiming to double bilateral trade by 2030. Canada also decided to join the India-led multilateral International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Global Biofuel Alliance as a member.

The two leaders discussed the escalation of the conflict in West Asia, although they didn't put out any joint understanding on the issue. Mr. Modi described the situation as one of "deep concern" and called for "diplomacy and dialogue" to resolve it. India had always called for peace and stability to be maintained, he said.

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IIP growth in January slows down to 4.8%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's industrial activity slowed to a three-month low of 4.8% in January 2026, dragged down by a broad-based slowdown across manufacturing, mining, electricity, and consumer-facing sectors, official data showed.

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) slowed from a 26-month high of 7.8% in December 2025, which was later revised upwards to 8%.

Within the index, the manufacturing sector saw growth slow to 4.8% in January from 8.4% in December 2025 and 5.8% in January 2025. The only broad sector to show accelerating growth was infrastructure, which quickened to 13.7% in January 2026, the highest since August 2023.

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Russian oil imports at 44-month low in January

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India continued its strategy of reducing Russian oil imports and sourcing more from the Gulf countries and the U.S. in January 2026 as well, the latest official data shows, with Russia's share in India's oil imports falling to less than 20% for the first time since May 2022.

An analysis of the latest preliminary data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India imported $1.98 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in January 2026. This was also the lowest in 44 months. With this, Russia's share in Indian oil imports fell to 19.3% in January 2026, the lowest since December 2022. For context, Russia's share was 27.5% two months earlier, and 33% in May 2025.

While India has maintained that it decides on its energy sourcing based on independent strategic and energy security considerations, the U.S. has repeatedly linked the lowering of tariffs on Indian imports and the potential trade deal with India's cutting down of oil imports from Russia.

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Birthday Remembrance

Sri B.S.Narayan
03rd March

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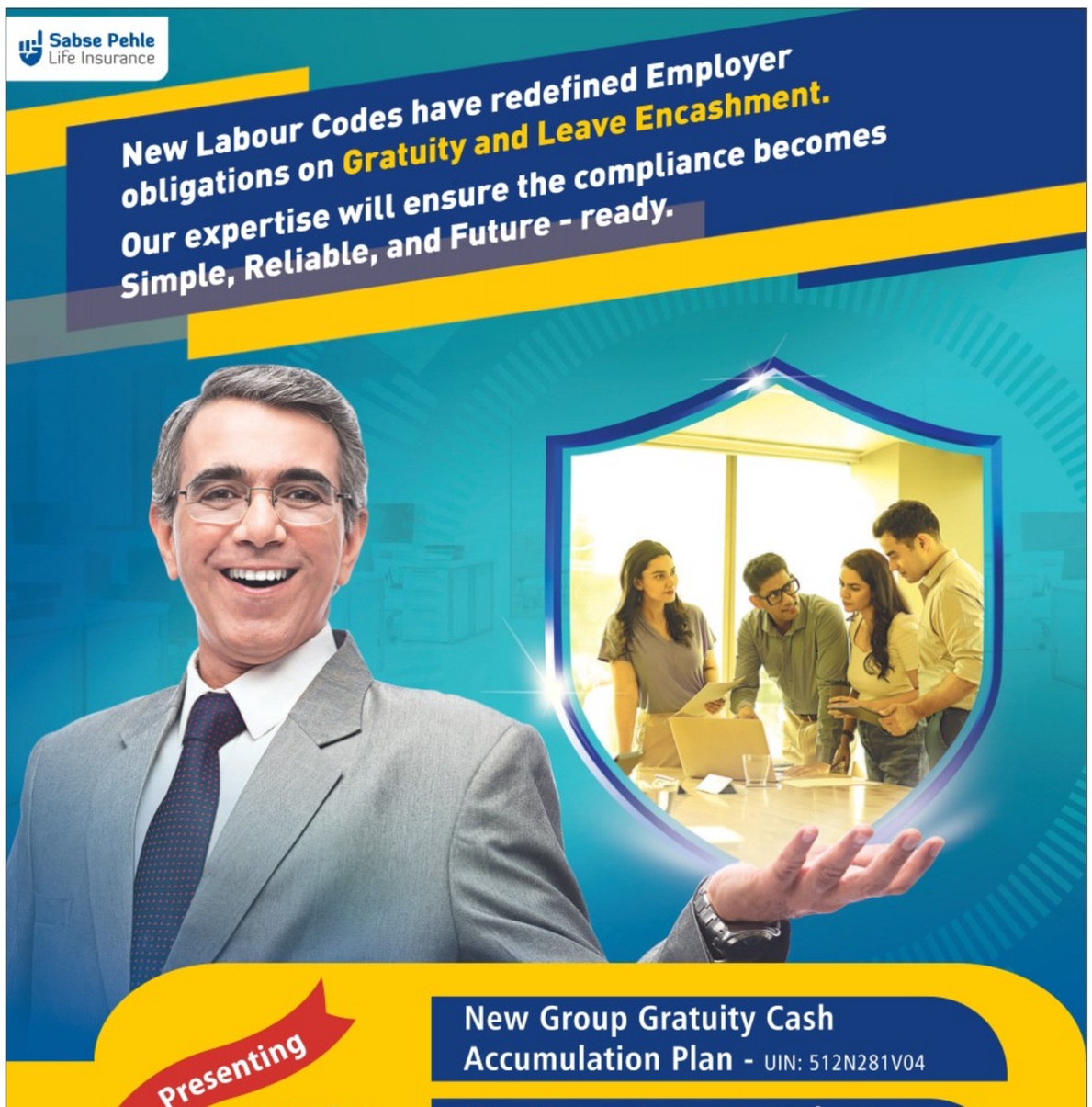

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Samson — from an enigma to a superking

His precociousness earned him an India cap in the T20 format as far back as July 2015, but in the decade and a bit since, he has made only 59 more appearances; on Sunday at the Eden Gardens, he was the player the cricket world has been waiting for a long time to see

K.R. DEEPAK

R. Kaushik
MUMBAI

For a long, long time, Sanju Samson threatened to become one of the many nearly-men of Indian cricket. His ability and skills were never in doubt; few who have wielded the willow have made batting look so sublime and ridiculously easy, fewer still have dominated bowling attacks without seemingly hitting a ball in anger.

Yet, Samson often loomed as his worst enemy. Pretty little structures seldom made way for magnificent edifices, the outcome wasn't always directly proportional to promise and potential. When he made runs, he looked a million dollars but those were neither munificent nor consistently significant enough for him to nail down a place in the national side.

His precociousness earned him an India cap in the Twenty20 format as far back as July 2015, when he was still a few months shy of turning 21, but in the decade and a bit since, he has made only 59 more appearances. His ODI debut didn't happen until July 2021 but even though he boasts an average of 56.66 at a strike rate of 99.60 and made a century in his last outing, he hasn't been able to add to his 16 caps since December 2023.

So, who is this Sanju Samson? Why is he such an enigma? What is it that has prevented him from giving full expression to his God-given gift - it has to be, because he bats at a level above mere mortals even when he gets out cheaply - when those evidently less talented have established themselves?

The answer, Samson himself will testify, is a combination of a lack of the quality of opportunity and his own self-doubt that has prevented him from taking the next step up. That, and a pronounced technical glitch that has only recently been ironed out, but whose value is already beginning to manifest himself.

Inconsistent

The gap between Samson's first and second T20I appearances appeared to be an indication of the roller-coaster ride that his career would come to resemble. After mustering a 24-ball 19 against Zimbabwe in Harare, he didn't play a 20-over international for four and a half years. The comeback, mainly behind several hundred exquisite runs for Rajasthan Royals, wasn't rip-roaring or fairytale-ish. Scores of 6, 8, 2 in his first three innings back were exasperating for the management duo of Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri, for the legion of Samson fans and for the protagonist himself, especially considering that in a powerful line-up, he was given the No. 4 position.

It took Samson 13 innings to make his first substantial contribution, 77 off 42 against Ireland in Malahide in June 2022 when V.V.S. Laxman was interim coach of the Hardik Pandya-led outfit. Even that failed to break the inconsistent run; ten innings and 25 months straddled his first two fifty-plus scores, by which time he had already secured a T20 World Cup winner's medal despite not playing a single game in the Americas in June 2024.

After that World Cup triumph, title-winning skipper Rohit Sharma and Kohli bid adieu to the 20-over game and Dravid stepped down as the head coach. Suryakumar Yadav was tasked with leading the T20 team into the future while Gautam Gambhir succeeded the man whose work ethic he tried to emulate as the coach and mentor. With massive chunks of experience having disappeared through the retirements of Rohit and Kohli (and Ravindra Jadeja), the new management group chose to invest in Samson at the top of the batting order, and the Kerala wicketkeeper-batter obliged with consecutive centuries against Bangladesh in Hyderabad (October 2024) and South Africa in Durban (November 2024).

Mounting woes

With preparations for the 2026 World Cup having begun in earnest, Samson seemed to have nailed down his place when he added a third hundred exactly a week after his second, but when have things ever been straightforward with him? Having embarked on a 111-107-0-0-109 n.o. run in four and a half weeks towards the end of 2024, he managed a frugal 51 runs in five innings against England, at home, in January 2025. A highest of 26 in the first game of the series was exacerbated by five dismissals to pacy deliveries banged into the surface, mainly by Jofra Archer. Suddenly, Samson wasn't on firm footing any longer.

His woes mounted when, for some strange reason that they have still not been able to explain with any conviction, India's selectors decided to bring Shubman Gill out of T20I hibernation and appoint him Suryakumar's deputy for the Asia Cup in the UAE last September. Gill had to open, of course, and open alongside his good buddy Abhishek Sharma, who had taken the 20-over landscape by storm on his way to becoming the No. 1 batter in that format. That meant a demotion for Samson, to the middle order where he hasn't played a lot for franchise or country.

Predictably, on slow pitches in Dubai, Samson struggled for fluency. He made a scratchy half-century against Oman in Abu Dhabi and a more fluent 39 off 23 against Sri Lanka in Dubai, but the die seemed to have been cast when he was replaced by Jitesh Sharma midway through the tour of Australia in October 2025. Jitesh had made a name for himself as a finisher for Royal Challengers Bengaluru during their march to the IPL title in 2025 and acquitted himself with reasonable success in his limited opportunities, but he went out as rapidly as he was recalled as Ajit Agarkar's panel had a dramatic change of heart that saw Gill being dumped from the 20-over version.

Gill's comeback to the 20-over side after nearly 14 months wasn't a success by any stretch of the imagination. In 15 innings between September and December last year, in the UAE, Australia and at home, he topped 40 just twice; there were four single-digit dismissals and his average and strike-rate weren't up to scratch. And so, after the home series against South Africa in December, he was given the heave-ho.

Samson went back up the order for India's last assignment, against New Zealand in January, and produced a horror sequence of 10, 6, 0, 24 and 6. Meanwhile, Ishan Kishan was tearing up the record books and Abhishek was still blasting away which meant that by the time of the World Cup, Samson was again pushed down the pecking order and out of the XI. India decided left-right combinations were overrated, packed their top three with left-handers and went into the World Cup as obvious favourites, but within two weeks, they were forced into an overhaul which coincided with Abhishek going off the boil, Tilak unable to immediately find his touch after four weeks out following surgery, and off-spinners feasting on Indian left-handed openers in the first over for three games on the trot.

K.R. DEEPAK

Back in it

Suddenly, Samson came back into the reckoning. Not because of a mountain of runs, but because his right-handedness offered a different point of reference. He warmed up with an unexpected recall when Abhishek spent a night in hospital for a stomach infection, a bittersweet cameo of 22 off 8 both heartening and infuriating. But once India made up their mind to split up Abhishek and Kishan and push Tilak into the middle order, Samson was back at the top in his own right, starting with the first of four must-win games against Zimbabwe in Chennai.

Again, like he did previously in the tournament and has done numerous times in the last decade, he made a breezy start, 24 off 15 before falling to a very obvious plan, pulling a short slower one down the throat of deep mid-wicket. C'mon Sanju, clean up your act.

And so he did at the Eden, cleaning up his act and putting West Indies out of the tournament. In Chennai, he said later, he kept going hard because India were trying to set a target. In Kolkata, he knew what the target was - a redoubtable 196 - which compelled him to play differently, without taking too many risks once Abhishek and Kishan were packed off within the first five overs.

Samson on Sunday at the Eden was the Samson the cricket world has been waiting for a long time to see. There was grace and flair and style and elegance - how can there not be? - but there was also a grand sense of responsibility, of taking the onus upon himself to get the job done. There were little to no risks. The low-percentage strokes were put away, and a not-so-minor but crucial footwork change was executed to perfection as he ensured that he was operating from a stable base and his body weight was evenly distributed on both feet as opposed to earlier, when his pronounced trigger movement transferred all his weight on to the backfoot.

One of the keys to a successful hunt of a big total is to have someone from the top three bat through the innings. Samson had never done that previously, not in any game where he had opened the batting in a 327-match career. He had never seen a chase through, he had never remained unbeaten when victory was brought up. It wasn't the most edifying statistic to possess.

Ticking that box too

And therefore on the biggest night (till now) of the year for Indian cricket, Samson decided he would tick that box too. First Abhishek and Kishan, then Suryakumar and later Tilak and Pandya fell. Whenever India looked like getting on top, they suffered an untimely setback and even though the target never went out of sight, there was tension and anxiety and a little unease. There shouldn't have been, not given how Samson was batting, but nerves are nerves and one could sense that the packed gathering at the Eden knew that the game was in the balance when Pandya was dismissed to make it 17 needed off 10.

It was largely on the back of Samson's 87 at the time that India had got this close. He received great help from Dube, who smacked two of his four deliveries in the penultimate over for fours, leaving India with only seven to get in the last. Samson whipped the first for six, smashed the second over mid-on for four. He sank to his knees, threw his hands up in gratitude and thanksgiving. What's the fuss all about, he seemed to ask. We all know the answer, don't we?

THE GIST

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How rehabilitation has failed State's manual scavengers

Workers say that years spent on entering septic tanks and dry latrines continue to have serious effects on their health, with healthcare access being patchy, though they are eligible for health coverage

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

While Karnataka has officially identified around 7,400 manual scavengers after the enactment of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the exercise, meant to be a turning point in their life, has failed to help them have a sustained livelihood.

Rehabilitation
In Mathkur near Hesaraghatta, 24 families were identified in the survey conducted by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC). They were recorded, given ID cards, and brought under the rehabilitation framework.

A decade later
However, over a decade later, when *The Hindu* visited the families, none of them reported having a stable livelihood, while many said they continue to deal with health problems linked to the work they once did. Workers across areas like Dasanapura, Mathkur, and Madanayakanahalli, who spoke to *The Hindu*, said that years spent on entering septic tanks and dry latrines continue to have serious effects on their health.

"We used to get inside the pits without any protection. The smell would make us dizzy, sometimes we would faint. Now I get fits and I cannot sleep properly," said Shivaganesh.

Other workers said that during those years they would consume alcohol before entering tanks to cope with the stench and suffocation.

"We have stopped now, but the damage is done. Doctors say my liver is affected," Manjunath M.A., another worker, added.

A former manual scavenger's wife, who recently lost her hand, says there is a gap in accessing healthcare which remains an issue. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Healthcare out of reach
Though the families are eligible for health coverage under Ayushman Bharat, workers said accessing treatment under the scheme remains difficult. Private hospitals either do not accept the Ayushman card or ask for upfront payment. Government hospitals that honour the scheme, such as Victoria Hospital or K.C. General Hospital in Bengaluru, require a two to three-hour journey from their locality.

The difficulty in accessing sustained medical care has had wider consequences. For those whose health has deteriorated to the point of disability, securing pension support has proven equally complicated.

The human cost of sanitation

K. Mallaiah, 60, said his wife recently lost her hand during a medical emergency and he applied for disability pension. Mr. Mallaiah said the paperwork, however, did not move till now, three months later.

Two lists
In Karnataka, identification has happened through two routes - one linked to the central rehabilitation scheme processed through the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, and another through surveys conducted by the Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation.

> We used to get inside the pits without any protection. The smell would make us dizzy, sometimes we would faint.
>
> **SHIVAGANESH**
> Former manual scavenger

Those identified under the central list are often told to approach banks for loan-based rehabilitation under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS), which requires project proposals, guarantors and multiple rounds of verification.

However, because of this distinction, in several cases, beneficiaries said they were made to run from pillar to post because officials themselves were unclear about which list governs which benefit.

Scholarship gaps
A recurring concern among families was their children's education and the complete absence of scholarship support. Almost every family said they had tried to enrol their children in government scholarship schemes meant for children of manual scavengers and other marginalised workers. Yet, in most cases, the applications did not move beyond the stage of acknowledgement receipts.

"Despite submitting all required documents, including manual scavenger identity cards, we did not receive any financial assistance. There is no understanding on what to do to get the benefits," said Bailanjineya, 39.

Struggling livelihoods
Residents lamented that every attempt to shift to alternative livelihoods hits fresh setbacks due to lack of sustained government support, especially while seeking loans. While some have set up pushcarts selling fruits and taken up manual labour, many showed their half-built homes, started with the one-time ₹2 lakh assistance during the pandemic, which proved insufficient. Several homes now have leaky roofs, and pending loan applications prevent completion.

A senior official from the Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation (KSSKDC), however, refuted the claims and said all loan applications were being processed in a timely manner.

He said scholarships were under the purview of the Social Welfare Department and not under the corporation.

Meanwhile, several manual scavengers demand permanent Group D posts within civic bodies, and argue that it could provide a more stable form of rehabilitation.

(In this series, we trace the unseen lives of the State's sanitation workers, capturing the human cost, systemic failures, and hidden labour that keeps the sanitation network functioning.)

Gangrape accused organised multiple parties earlier too

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Investigations into the case where a 19-year-old girl has alleged gangrape at a party in a villa in Jakkur have led to the discovery of an alleged network of parties organised by the accused at villas and star hotels of the city, where police suspect there may have been more victims. Police suspect a wider racket involving the exploitation and blackmail of young women.

Police have arrested Nikhil, a resident of Basaveshwaranagar, who is accused of organising exclusive villa parties advertised as "sugar daddy-sugar baby". Police said young women below 25 years were tagged as "sugar babies" and men above 45 years as "sugar daddies", with coded passwords used for entry to these parties.

Police suspect that the accused lured young women with promises of money, gifts, and luxury experiences. In certain cases, investigators believe drinks may have been spiked, followed by sexual assault. The accused allegedly recorded photos and videos of the acts and later used them to blackmail victims for money. Police are now collecting details of previous events and verifying how many such gatherings were organised.

The Jakkur villa, where the alleged gangrape happened, is owned by a senior police officer, who had leased it to a person, who then had listed it on an online marketplace for short-term stays, where the accused hired the villa for the party. Police have ruled out any knowledge of the party or the incident involving the police officer.

A day before the woman lodged her complaint with Amruthahalli Police alleging gangrape, Nikhil had lodged a complaint alleging honey trap and extortion against the woman. While doing so, he had furnished multiple photographs taken on his mobile phone as evidence.

However, his phone had gone missing by the time the Amruthahalli Police arrested him in the gangrape case. He has reportedly claimed he has given it for repair. Investigators have seized the mobile phones of five accused persons and are examining WhatsApp chats and call records to establish the sequence of events and identify other possible victims and participants.

Investigators are also examining how many mobile devices were used by the accused and whether others were involved in facilitating bookings, logistics, and guest coordination. Police said the probe is progressing on multiple angles, and more arrests are likely based on digital and forensic evidence. So far, statements of seven witnesses have been recorded.

Senior executive of private hospital booked for rape

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An executive director of a private hospital in South Bengaluru has been booked on charges of rape and criminal intimidation following a complaint by an administrative executive of the hospital who alleged that he sexually assaulted her under the pretext of official meetings.

Based on the complaint, Siddapura Police Station has registered an FIR against Trivikram Rao, executive director of a private hospital near Ashoka Pillar in Jayanagar.

According to the survivor's statement, she had joined the organisation around three months ago when the accused allegedly began asking her to accompany him to client and investor meetings.

She alleged that under the guise of professional discussions, he subjected her to repeated sexual harassment.

On one such occasion, Rao allegedly invited her for a meeting at a star hotel and raped her in a room at The Oberoi, Bengaluru, on MG Road. The victim further alleged that the accused threatened her with termination if she disclosed the incident to anyone.

Unable to cope with the alleged harassment and intimidation, the victim resigned from her position and later approached the police.

The complaint was lodged three days ago, while the alleged incident is said to have occurred about a month earlier.

Absconding
Police said that the accused is currently absconding and is not available either at his residence or office.

Efforts are under way to trace and apprehend him. Further investigation is on.

Actor among three arrested for murder of live-in partner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagalagunte Police have arrested three persons, including an actor, in connection with the murder of a 45-year-old man whose decomposed body was found inside a rented house.

The accused have been identified as Bindu, her alleged boyfriend Vinay, and his associate Dhanush. The victim, Mohan Rao was reportedly in a live-in relationship with Bindu.

The police said Bindu had acted in minor roles in Kannada films such as *Bhajarangi*, *Police Quarters*, and *Kalabhairava*.

Two months ago, Bindu and Rao rented a house in Manjunath Nagar.

On February 28, a foul smell emerged from the house which prompted the landlord, Nataraj, to alert the police. Upon inspection, the police found Rao's body in a decomposed state.

During investigation, the interrogation revealed that Bindu had developed a relationship with Vinay who proposed to marry her. However, Rao objected.

According to the police, on the night of February 18, Rao, Bindu, Vinay, and Dhanush consumed alcohol at the house. During the party, an altercation broke out after Rao allegedly misbehaved with Bindu. Enraged, Vinay was said to have stabbed Rao with a knife. When he screamed, the trio allegedly gagged him with tape and smothered him.

The accused then locked the house and fled.

Techie loses ₹2.9 lakh to fake credit card scam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cyber fraudsters allegedly cheated a 28-year-old techie from Koramangala of ₹2.9 lakh by offering a fake "protection plan" for his credit cards.

According to the complaint , the victim owned two credit cards issued by a private bank.

The victim received a call from an unknown person and the caller initially claimed that reward points on the credit cards were about to expire and later offered to activate a protection plan for the cards. To process the request, the accused allegedly sent a link and instructed the victim to download a mobile application.

Believing the caller to be genuine, he followed the instructions. Soon after, ₹2,91,800 was fraudulently withdrawn from his credit cards without his knowledge. Upon realising the unauthorised debits, the victim approached the police and filed a complaint. Efforts are on to trace the fraudsters.

PHANA holds seminar on biomedical waste management at KMC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To create awareness and strengthen cooperation between private hospitals and regulatory authorities, the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) organised a seminar on biomedical waste management for its member institutions at the Karnataka Medical Council auditorium in Bengaluru.

The seminar that brought together regulators, service providers, and hospital administrators for a detailed discussion on compliance requirements was addressed by J. Chandra Babu, Regional Director of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Mr. Babu outlined the latest Biomedical Waste Management Rules, including barcoding mechanisms, documentation norms, and the responsibilities of healthcare institutions in ensuring the safe disposal of biomedical waste.

He stressed that strict adherence to environmental regulations was essential to protect public health and prevent ecological damage.

Officials of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) also participated and clarified operational and regulatory aspects of implementation. They responded to queries from hospital representatives regarding statutory procedures, timelines, and compliance standards.

Lokayukta orders probe into alleged irregularities at Kidwai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta has initiated a *suo motu* inquiry into alleged irregularities, administrative lapses and mismanagement at the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru following an anonymous complaint.

Taking cognisance of the allegations, Justice B.S. Patil ordered a detailed investigation and directed officials concerned to furnish explanations.

A team comprising judicial and police wing of the Lokayukta was constituted to examine records, inspect hospital departments and seize relevant documents if necessary under a search warrant.

The Lokayukta visited the hospital earlier and noted several deficiencies. During a hearing on February 25, hospital Director Naveen, administrative officer Harish, and accounts officer Venkateshappa appeared before the authority.

A view of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The inquiry focused on the non-availability of critical medicines, including protein-based therapies and Trastuzumab. The hospital administration informed the Lokayukta that correspondence had been made with the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust to ensure supply of the drugs and that the matter was under consideration.

Expressing concern, the Lokayukta directed that not only the two medicines in question but all essential drugs required for cancer treatment must be supplied without delay to ensure uninterrupted care for poor patients.

Directions were also issued to the Health and Family Welfare Department and the Trust's Executive Director to take immediate steps and submit a compliance report. The authority further instructed officials to streamline pre-authorisation procedures for protein therapy investigations and follow-up treatment courses to avoid hardship to patients.

The Lokayukta observed procedural bottlenecks affecting beneficiaries under government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and Arogya Karnataka. The officials were directed to coordinate with the Health Department and remove administrative hurdles to ensure eligible patients receive timely treatment.

During an earlier visit on September 26, 2025, the Lokayukta flagged an acute shortage of doctors in the Medical Oncology Department. The administration stated that despite the government fixing a salary of ₹1.20 lakh per month, specialists were reluctant to join duty. Some existing doctors had also submitted resignations.

The Lokayukta advised the government to introduce incentives and other measures to attract and retain qualified specialists and suggested that retired professors be encouraged to serve the institution.

Concerns were also raised regarding hygiene in wards, dormitories and hospital premises during the September inspection. The Director informed the authority that corrective steps had resulted in nearly 80% improvement in cleanliness standards. The Lokayukta, however, directed the administration to achieve 100% compliance.

After reviewing submissions from officials of the Medical Education Department, Health and Family Welfare Services, and the hospital administration, the Lokayukta directed them to file a detailed action-taken report. The next hearing in the matter has been scheduled for April 24.

GBA chief to interact with East Corpn. residents today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao will hold a public interaction meeting within the East City Corporation on Tuesday to hear grievances from citizens. The meeting will be held at the East Commissioner's Office located at RHB Colony on Whitefield Main Road from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Furthermore, public grievance meetings are scheduled within the West City Corporation on March 5, North City Corporation on March 10, and South City Corporation on March 12. Grievances related to infrastructure, roads, sanitation, and other civic issues will be heard by Mr. Rao.

How landscapes' 'memories' shape the way Indian cities flood

In India's cities, streets remain waterlogged long after the rains have passed, and these scenes are often dismissed as failures of drainage systems; however, landscapes do not respond to rain instantly or forget it quickly; instead, they exhibit hydrological hysteresis — a 'memory' of past rainfall

Priya Ranganathan

File photos of flooded areas in Bengaluru following heavy rains in October 2024. SUDHAKARA JAIN & PTI

Rain comes down steadily, painting the skies a dull grey and sending a chill breeze wafting through the windows of high-rise buildings. On the street below, water creeps out of cracks and pores.

Next to the highway lies a lake but the boundary between water and land has blurred. What was once contained spreads across the wetland, dampening the mud path joggers run on, seeping into the road beneath the churning wheels of buses, cars, and motorcycles.

It is water that seems out of place, yet it moves with familiarity, following paths the land remembers long after they have been paved over.

What does it mean for a landscape to remember rain?

In cities across India, streets remain waterlogged long after the downpour has passed.

These familiar scenes are often dismissed as failures of human-made drainage systems or excess rainfall. But hydrology offers an additional insight: landscapes don't respond to rain instantly or forget it quickly. Instead they retain a memory of past rainfall, shaping how water moves through soils, wetlands, rivers, and cities.

This phenomenon is called hydrological hysteresis.

Memory of water

Hydrological hysteresis describes how a landscape's response to rainfall depends on the current volume of rainfall as well as on past events. A catchment that has already absorbed weeks of monsoon rain will behave differently from a parched one, even if both receive the same amount of rain today.

Water is stored over time in soils, aquifers, wetlands, and floodplains but they release it at different rates. As a result, the relationship between rainfall and river flow is not linear. It shifts as the land moistens and dries.

When dry, a sponge will absorb water readily; but once it's saturated, adding just a little more water will cause the sponge to leak. Similarly, dry soils and wetlands fill as the monsoon begins and excess water is stored in the soil and adjacent vegetation. As the rains continue, the soils and wetlands near saturation and infiltration drops.

Rain water that might have been absorbed increasingly becomes runoff, leading to flooding even without rainfall intensifying.

When rivers outgrow their banks

Monsoon floods in India are often described as simple responses to heavy rain, but rivers don't react to rain alone. They respond to how water reshapes and occupies the landscape over time. This evolving interaction between flow and land gives rise to hydrological hysteresis, and explains why rivers behave differently when floods rise or recede.

As monsoon rain intensifies, river channels fill rapidly. Water levels rise because more water enters the system and because flow accelerates and pressure builds within the channel.

At this time, much of the surrounding floodplain is disconnected and the river is largely confined, with its energy directed downstream.

Once water exceeds the river's banks, the system changes. It spreads laterally into the floodplains, wetlands, abandoned channels, and low-lying agricultural land. Large volumes shift from fast-moving channels into slow or near-stagnant floodplains. As sediment settles and flow slows, the local hydraulic gradients flatten.

These changes persist even as rainfall weakens. Floodplains don't drain instantly back into rivers. The stored water seeps slowly through soils, reentering channels via backwaters or remaining ponded for weeks. As groundwater levels rise, drainage is further delayed.

When lakes spill into the city

When a river returns to a given water level on the falling limb, it is physically different from when it first reached that level.

A river thus acquires memory through altered storage and resistance across its landscape.

In October 2024, the Kogilu and Doddabommasandra lakes in Bengaluru's Yelahanka area overflowed after days of sustained rainfall. Water breached nearby roads, including stretches of the Outer Ring Road. At first glance, the cause seemed straightforward: the lakes were full, leaving little capacity to absorb additional stormwater.

But what unfolded was not simply a matter of full lakes. It was a path-dependent response of the city's drainage system.

As rain water accumulated, lake levels rose while remaining largely contained. Stormwater drains continued carrying runoff into the lakes. Once water crossed a critical elevation, however, the system shifted. Lakes spilled laterally into roads and open land, submerging drains that had previously acted as outlets. Water was now stored outside basins, on the streets and in saturated soils.

When rainfall intensity dropped, lake levels fell back toward earlier values, but flooding did not recede at the same pace. At the same lake levels that caused no flooding on the way up, roads remained inundated on the way down.

Water trapped on urban surfaces drained slowly, constrained by saturated ground, flattened gradients, and submerged or clogged drains. The system no longer behaved as it had earlier in the event.

Bengaluru's history helps explain this. The interconnected lakes established during Kempegowda's rule in the 16th century were once linked by natural streams and wetlands that allowed water to spread and return gradually.

But over time, these connections were straightened into concrete channels and the city built over the floodplains. The result was a system that filled quickly, spilled abruptly, and emptied slowly – leaving floods to linger even after a rain had eased.

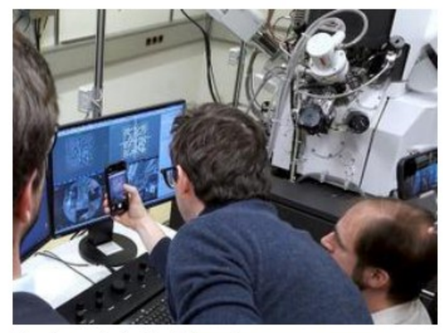
Land's memory

Hydrological hysteresis shows why rainfall totals alone are poor indicators of flood risk. Rivers and cities respond to how wet the landscape already is, which is why floods often arrive suddenly or persist long after the rain has stopped.

For policymakers, this goes beyond reactive flood control towards basin-scale planning. Urban lakes, wetlands, and floodplains are not redundant spaces but critical infrastructure that store water early in the monsoon and release it gradually.

As climate change intensifies rainfall, recognising the land's hydrological memory will matter more than engineering responses alone.

(Priya Ranganathan is a doctoral student at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment who studies freshwater swamps in the Western Ghats. kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)



The team tests the QR code. TU WIEN

Tiniest QR code for long-term data storage

Vasudevan Mukunth

By shrinking a QR code to the size of a microbe, researchers from the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) and the German-Austrian start-up Cerabyte have shown that the future of the digital world could depend on ceramics, one of the oldest and most durable materials known to humans.

On December 3, the team secured a Guinness World Record for the world's smallest QR code. Spanning just around 2 sq. micrometres, the code is about one-third the size of the previous record holder and smaller than a single bacterium.

While the image is itself an achievement, the team's methods also offer a new way for humans to store their digital legacy.

The project was led by Paul Mayrhofer, head of the Institute of Materials Science and Technology at TU Wien, along with researchers Erwin Peck and Balint Hajas. And they were motivated by data rot: the inevitable decay of magnetic and electronic storage media.

The TU Wien team explored ceramic-based storage as a permanent and zero-energy alternative to current storage solutions like hard drives and magnetic tapes

Current storage solutions like hard drives and magnetic tapes last around 10 to 30 years. They require a power supply to operate and need to have the data they store to be copied to new hardware to prevent loss. The TU Wien team explored ceramic-based storage as a permanent and zero-energy alternative.

To create the code, the researchers skipped traditional printing technologies in favour of atom-scale engineering, in particular a technique called focused ion beam milling.

They started with a glass substrate coated in a 15-nm-thick layer of chromium nitride, a ceramic typically used to coat industrial cutting tools because it's very hard and excels at resisting heat and corrosion. Using a stream of electrically charged atoms as a knife, the researchers carved the QR code directly into the ceramic film. Each individual pixel in the 29 x 29 grid measured only 49 nm. Because these pixels were roughly ten-times smaller than the wavelength of visible light, the code is physically impossible to see with a standard optical microscope. To verify the work, the team used a calibrated scanning electron microscope, which uses electrons instead of light to resolve small structures.

The effort also proved that ceramic storage could reach an information density of 130 bits per square micrometre, meaning a single A4-sized ceramic sheet could hold more than 2 TB of data. This is currently between the roughly 20 bits/μm^2 of LTO-9 magnetic tape and 1,500-3,000 bits/μm^2 of modern hard drives.

Unlike plastic-based tapes or magnetic disks, chromium nitride is chemically inert, physically stable and can survive millennia without degrading. As the data has been etched rather than stored in a configuration of electromagnetic states, it does not need power to persist, potentially sidestepping the need for data centres with large carbon footprints. It does, however, require a powerful and expensive microscope to retrieve, although the team has said it's developing high-speed laser writing and optical reading systems for industrial use.

This feat is akin to Microsoft's Project Silica, where researchers are encoding data in layers of glass using high-speed lasers, again with the aim of developing high-density data storage that can last for a long time.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

It's a blood test. What could go wrong?

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Even if you're mildly dehydrated during a blood test, your blood volume can drop enough to concentrate waste products in your blood, leading to inflated readings of creatinine and BUN, which in turn are also signs of kidney disease. What does BUN stand for?

QUESTION 2

Sometimes, a blood test will identify a type called X. It lacks all 61 antigens in the Rh system and is so rare that fewer than 50 people in the world are known to have it. While it can be life-saving, it's also dangerous for the owner, since they can only receive blood from another type X person. Name X.

QUESTION 3

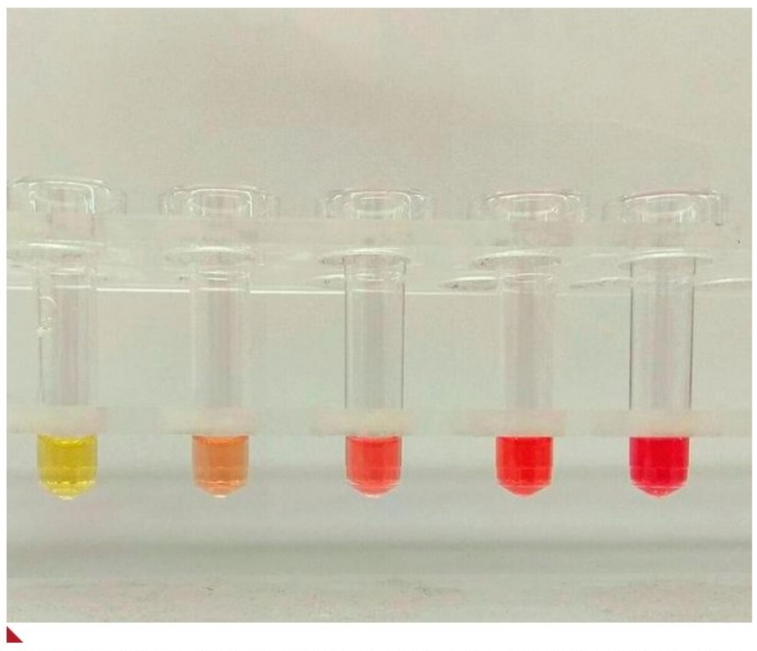
High doses of which vitamin commonly found in hair and skin supplements can interfere with the technology used in many lab tests to falsely suppress troponin readings? This protein is used to diagnose heart attacks.

QUESTION 4

Medical researchers calculate the 'reference' ranges for blood tests using ____ _____ of the healthy population. This range captures the middle 95%, meaning that 5% of healthy people will naturally fall outside the 'normal' range for any marker, even if nothing is wrong. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

Clinical guidelines say a tourniquet shouldn't be left on your arm for more than a minute. If it is, name the process that occurs that forces water out of the veins, leading to falsely high readings for calcium and iron.



VISUAL: Name the phenomenon happening here, which is a common reason for labs to reject blood samples. It often happens if the needle was too small or the blood was drawn too fast. VIOXIMIKO (CC BY-SA)

Answers to February 24 quiz:

1. Channel of smell responsible for large share of flavour – **Ans: Retronasal**
2. Compound used to reveal nervous system's response to heat – **Ans: Capsaicin**
3. Taste quality referring to fats – **Ans: Oleogustus**
4. Term for people with certain variants of TAS2R38 – **Ans: Supertasters**
5. When a small current on the tongue produces taste – **Ans: Electrogustation**

Visual: Miracle fruit

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Appa Rao M.V. | Prem Raj P.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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State to extend financial aid to stranded passengers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has announced willingness to foot the hotel expenses of Kannadigas stranded in West Asia.

"We have urged the Centre to help the stranded Kannadigas through Indian Embassies by funding them, which will be repaid by the State government. We are ready to share the cost," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told presspersons here on Monday.

Stating that the State government could not operate on its own on foreign soil, Mr. Gowda said that Karnataka would go through the Centre to fund those stranded passengers who were in need of financial assistance.

Local visas

Mr. Gowda also said that the State government was working closely with the Ministry of External Affairs in securing local visas to passengers stranded due to cancellation of connecting flights.

"Some are stranded in the airports at Dubai or Bahrain without connecting flights. They are unable to go out of the airport since they do not have visa and there are not many facilities in airport. If they call the State helpline, we will share the information with the Union government that will ask the local Embassy to connect with those stranded and help them to get out of the airport," the Minister said, adding that the stranded passengers could directly get in touch with the local Embassies.

Another point of anxiety of passengers, the Minister pointed out, was of special flights or repatriation flights to return home.

Expats from State safe, but anxious as tensions escalate in West Asia

With several flights suspended or delayed, hundreds of tourists and expatriates are stranded in cities like Dubai, Abu Dhabi

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Passengers stranded by the closure of Dubai International Airport await for assistance in the airport parking lot in Dubai. AP

As tension escalates in parts of West Asia, hundreds of people from Karnataka living in the region or there on travel are anxious, even as authorities maintain that the overall situation remains under control. While expatriates from Karnataka currently report being safe, uncertainty over further developments has left them on the edge.

In Doha, Qatar, Kutappa B.D., who has been employed there for the past decade, described a tense atmosphere marked by frequent explosions. Although certain areas have witnessed strikes, he said, residential neighbourhoods remain secure for now.

"We are safe at present, though the situation around us is tense. There have been continuous bombings, mainly targeting U.S. military installations in Qatar. The explosions are powerful enough to cause vibrations and loud sounds, and we have barely been able to sleep because of it. Despite this, there is no direct threat to civilians in our area. We trust the Qatari government will take every step to ensure the safety of residents. While there is anxiety about what may happen next, we are hopeful that the situation will stabilise soon," he said.

Helpline number

Those in need may call State Emergency Operation Centre helpline **080-22340676 / 22253707**

Despite calm

In the United Arab Emirates, particularly in Dubai, expatriates have reported witnessing drones and missiles crossing the night sky. Priya S., originally from Mangaluru and currently working in Dubai, said the visuals have been unsettling. She noted that she never imagined such scenes unfolding in a city known for its stability and vibrant lifestyle. According to her, the UAE authorities have advised residents to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary, especially as debris from intercepted missiles has posed risks in certain areas.

"Our parents, relatives and friends back home are worried because of the constant news reports and social media messages. But there is no need for panic. We are safe here. The government has been cooperative and responsive. Apart from being cautious and staying indoors, life in residential areas is largely normal," she said.

Air travel disruptions, however, have created significant inconvenience. With several flights suspended or delayed, hundreds of tourists and expatriates from Karnataka are stranded across cities such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

MLAs safe

Among those currently in Dubai are Congress MLAs Na.Ra. Bharath Reddy and S.R. Srinivas, along with JD (S) MLC S.L. Bhojegowda. In a video message released on Monday, Mr. Reddy stated that around 35 people from Ballari accompanying him were also safe. According to him, the Karnataka government has been in constant contact, and the list of those stranded has been shared with the Indian Embassy.

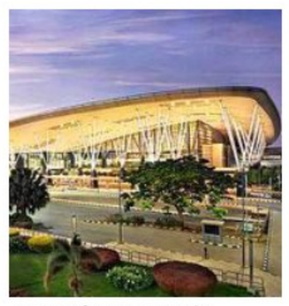
"We have shared the complete list of all 35 individuals with the State government, and it has been forwarded to the Indian Embassy here. As per the information available to us, airport operations are expected to resume as soon as the situation stabilises," Mr. Reddy said.

Community organisations have stepped in to provide assistance.

Parashuram, a resident of Downtown Dubai and a member of Kannada Nudi Sangha, said that volunteers have been supporting stranded individuals with information and coordination. While acknowledging that the past two days had been worrying, he said there was "no immediate cause for alarm." "I urge people not to venture outside unnecessarily and I would like to tell families in Karnataka that expatriates in the UAE remain safe," he said.

Flight from Abu Dhabi lands at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


A view of Kempegowda International Airport. FILE PHOTO

Flight operations from the West Asia region to Bengaluru, which were suspended since February 28 in light of the ongoing escalation of tension in the region, resumed on Monday night with an Etihad flight from Abu Dhabi landing at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the KIA, said that Etihad flight EY238/239 from Abu Dhabi landed at the airport and would depart at 11.10 p.m. for Abu Dhabi.

"Etihad flight EY238/239 is operating tonight. The flight is expected to arrive at 10 p.m. and depart at 11.10 p.m. to Abu Dhabi from the KIA. The outbound sector to Abu Dhabi will operate with restrictions," the BIAL said in a statement.

"All Etihad's scheduled commercial flights to and from Abu Dhabi remain suspended until 14.00 UAE time on Wednesday, March 4. Some repositioning, cargo and repatriation flights may operate in coordination with the UAE authorities and subject to strict operational and safety approvals," the Etihad posted on X.

The BIAL said that Emirates would operate A388 aircraft on March 3. "Emirates to operate A388 tomorrow early morning EK 568/569 SIBT 0240 SOBT 04.30 departure restricted only up to Dubai only for UAE nationals and resident permit holders," it said.

In light of the ongoing escalation of tension in the West Asia region, flight services from Bengaluru's KIA have been disrupted for the third consecutive day.

The BIAL said that 72 flights were cancelled on Monday.

"Due to airspace restriction on March 2, 39 arrivals and 33 departures have been cancelled today till midnight," a BIAL spokesperson said.

The key sectors to which flight service were affected include Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai and Doha.

Mangaluru

At the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA), many flights were cancelled on Monday.

Meanwhile, Air India Express said that it would resume flight operations to and from Muscat starting March 3 to Mangaluru.

109 from Karnataka stranded in West Asia as airspace closures disrupt flights

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At least 109 people from Karnataka have been stranded in West Asian countries following widespread airspace closures amid the ongoing conflict.

According to official data released by the State government, 100 people are stranded in the United Arab Emirates (Dubai) and nine in Bahrain after several countries declared NOTAM (closure of airspace), severely disrupting international flight operations. District-wise data shows that Ballari accounts for the highest number of stranded passengers in the UAE at 32, followed by Bengaluru (25) and Davanagere (9). Kodagu and Vijayapura have four stranded persons each, while Chikkamagaluru has five. Three persons each are stranded from Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga and Raichur. Two each are from Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, Kalaburagi and Udupi, while one person is from Tumakuru. The districts of three individuals are yet to be confirmed. In Bahrain, four persons are from Hassan, three from Udupi, one from Kodagu and one from an unspecified district.

In a press release, Relief Commissioner and Principal Secretary to the Revenue Department (Disaster Management) Munish Moudgil said that on the directions of the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister, the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) and all District Emergency Operations Centres (DEOCs) have been fully activated and are functioning round-the-clock to monitor the situation and extend necessary assistance. The SEOC and DEOCs are regularly updating advisories issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Embassies and Consulates in the affected countries. The Karnataka Resident Commissioner has also activated the Karnataka Bhavan team in New Delhi for coordination with authorities. "As on March 2, 10 a.m., the details of 109 stranded people from Karnataka received at SEOC and DEOC have been forwarded to the MEA and Karnataka Bhavan," he said.

CM: Strengthen diplomatic outreach

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah

Expressing "profound concern regarding the rapidly escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia", Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen diplomatic outreach and be ready with a repatriation preparedness framework.

Multiple countries across West Asia have declared airspace restrictions, and these developments have resulted in a large number of Kannadigas and other Indian nationals being stranded, particularly in major transit hubs such as UAE, he pointed out in a letter to the Prime Minister on Monday. While Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out at earlier requests from Karnataka for appropriate repatriation measures and coordination with airlines for flexible rescheduling, waivers of penalties and interim support to passengers, he urged Mr. Modi to enhance engagement through Indian embassies to ensure continuous monitoring, protection and guidance for Kannadigas and other Indian nationals.

He urged the Centre to be prepared to initiate priority evacuation or special repatriation flights should circumstances so require. He urged the establishment of inter-ministerial dedicated national coordination mechanism, integrated registration and information system and passenger protection protocol to extend flexibility in travel schedules, waiver additional charges and provide humanitarian assistance.

Jagrutha Nagarikaru flays U.S.-Israel attack on Iran

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jagrutha Nagarikaru, Karnataka, a civil society collective based in Bengaluru, has strongly condemned the recent bomb and missile strikes carried out by the United States and Israel on Iran, terming the action an attack on Iran's sovereignty and independence.

In a press statement, signed by several prominent writers, including K. Marulasiddappa, G. Ramakrishna, S.G. Siddaramaiah among others, the organisation alleged that the strikes had led to the deaths of innocent civilians and accused the U.S. and Israel of escalating tensions at a time when peace talks were reportedly under way between the two nations. The collective also raised questions over India's diplomatic position.

It has urged the Centre to condemn the attack on Iran and press for an immediate halt to the war.

'Peace not only a moral imperative, it's economic necessity'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Trade must not be sacrificed at the altar of political brinkmanship, said the representative of the Indo-Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Monday.

Syed Hakim Raza, president of Indo-Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industries, urged for restraint, dialogue, and a return to diplomacy. "Peace is not only a moral imperative, it is an economic necessity. Let reconstruction, cooperation, and shared prosperity define the path forward," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Raza said, "India and Iran are ancient civilisations with complementary economies and a history of pragmatic engagement."

"We extend our deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods in this conflict and reiterate our commitment to restoring business confidence on both sides," he said. According to Mr. Raza, the human and economic fallout of the conflict was staggering. More than 8 to 9 million Indians reside in Gulf Cooperation Council countries, with additional large Indian communities in Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. "Disruptions to airspace, shipping lanes, and employment markets directly impact millions of Indian families dependent on remittances," he observed.

Syed Hakim Raza

Reconstruction needs in a post-conflict Iran alone could generate tens or even hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity over time. If even 5%-10% of that economic opportunity were to involve Indian participation in infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, energy, and engineering services, it would represent a transformative boost for Indian industry and employment, he said.

The assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, marked a dangerous and destabilising moment for the region and the global economy, Mr. Raza said, adding such an act crossed a major geopolitical red line and risks pushing West Asia into prolonged instability.

"For India, the consequences are immediate and profound," he cautioned.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 03	
RISE 06:34	SET 18:29
RISE 18:28	SET 06:19
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 04	
RISE 06:34	SET 18:29
RISE 19:19	SET 06:58
THURSDAY, MAR. 05	
RISE 06:33	SET 18:29
RISE 20:07	SET 07:35

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	32	20

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of flight cancellations in Delhi amid West Asian crisis

87 International flights were cancelled at the Delhi airport on Monday as airline operations were disrupted for the third day due to the West Asian conflict. An official said that 37 departures and 50 arrivals have been cancelled at the Delhi airport. Indian airlines cancelled 760 overseas flights in the last two days owing to the escalating conflict. PTI

Prisoners pardoned by Myanmar's military government

10,162 The head of Myanmar's military government granted amnesty to more than 10,000 prisoners and reduced the sentences of others to mark a holiday, state-run media reported on Monday. The amnesty comes two weeks before parliament is set to convene for its first session in more than five years. AP

Budget presented by Haryana CM for the financial year 2026-27

2.23 in ₹ lakh crore. Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini on Monday presented the Budget for the financial year 2026-27 with an outlay of ₹2.23 lakh crore, up 10.2% from the revised allocation of ₹2.028 lakh crore in the current fiscal. He said 5,000 suggestions were received from various quarters, and these have been incorporated in the Budget. PTI

India's current account deficit in Q3 of 2025-26

13.2 in $ billion. India's current account deficit (CAD) rose to $13.2 billion, or 1.3% of GDP, in the December quarter from $11.3 billion in the year-ago period, mainly due to a higher trade deficit caused by a decline in exports to the U.S., according to RBI data released on Monday. However, the current account deficit moderated to $30.1 billion. PTI

Death toll from violent weekend protests in Pakistan

25 The death toll from Pakistan's violent weekend protests over the killing of Iran's supreme leader has reached at least 25, according to an AFP tally on Monday. Demonstrations erupted in several major cities in Pakistan. At least 10 deaths were reported and over 70 were injured, the office of the Karachi police surgeon said. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Rupture across the Durand Line

Pakistan and Afghanistan engage in intense military clashes, signalling a break in political, military, and societal ties across the Durand Line; driven by differences over Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and collapsing strategic trust, the once carefully cultivated Paki.-Taliban relationship now lies in tatters on an unequal battlefield

WORLD INSIGHT

D. Suba Chandran

For the second time in six months, Pakistan and Afghanistan have engaged in an intense military clash. Unlike the periodic clashes across the Durand Line during the last two decades when the U.S. was in Afghanistan, the latest clashes – first in October and now again last week – are significant. Pakistan used air and missile strikes deep inside Afghanistan, including in Kabul and Kandahar, while the Taliban targeted multiple Pakistani military posts across the Durand Line. Military and civilian casualties in these two attacks, last year's and the ongoing one, have been high. The latest attacks come despite a ceasefire mediated by Turkiye and Qatar following the post-October 2025 clashes.

Following the latest military strikes, Pakistan's Defence Minister declared that it would be an "open war" against Afghanistan. What has happened between Pakistan and Afghanistan during the last six months? After creating the Taliban in the 1990s and nurturing it ever since, even under intense American pressure until August 2021, why is Pakistan's Deep State now going after its creation? Why has the Taliban, despite being supported by Pakistan and taking refuge within Pakistan during the U.S.-led war on terrorism, turned against its erstwhile mentor?

Keeping vigil: A Taliban security personnel rides an armed vehicle on the outskirts of Jalalabad on February 28. AFP

The cross-Durand rupture

The two rounds of military clashes highlight a rupture in the bilateral relationship at three levels.

First, at the political level, between Islamabad and Kabul. Though the two countries had differences during the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan during 2001-21, they were expected to be bridged when the Taliban captured Kabul immediately after the American exit in 2021. Instead, despite multiple rounds of dialogue, the bilateral relationship has only worsened. Pakistani Defence Minister's declaration of an "open war" on Afghanistan signifies a political rupture.

Second, there is a rupture between Pakistan's Establishment and the Taliban leadership. From the mid-1990s, the political and military rise of the Taliban would not have happened without the Pakistan Establishment's support. Successive military and ISI chiefs supported the Taliban. Today, under new military and ISI leadership in Pakistan, that link remains ruptured. Islamabad would not have declared an "open war" without Rawalpindi's approval.

Third, there is a widening rupture between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. During the last few years, there has been an intense debate over deporting the Afghans, who have arrived in Pakistan during different phases, and made the country their home. Ever since the current Pakistani government began actively pushing them back, there has been an intense resistance from Afghanistan and the Taliban. However, within Pakistan, there was no major societal debate, contrary to the state's position. Though a small section of Pakistan seeks to build consensus on the issue, it remains a minority voice. Beyond the political and military rupture across the Durand Line, the societal divide will haunt the two nations for generations to come, as this alliance was forged over centuries.

Origins of the divide

In August 2021, when the U.S. left Afghanistan and the Taliban took over immediately after that, the ISI chief was among the first foreign leaders to visit Kabul in September. In Rawalpindi, there was a sense of achievement that finally their boys were back in Kabul, and an expectation that the relationship would rapidly improve. Pakistan expected Kabul would control the Tehrik-e-Taliban-Pakistan (TTP) and that they would even force its leadership to surrender.

On the contrary, as the data would prove, there was an increase in militant activities in the tribal regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during 2022-25. During this period, Pakistan was divided over how to respond to the TTP threat. Under Imran Khan, the political and military leadership pursued a more carrot-and-stick approach towards the TTP. After his exit, and under the current Army chief, Pakistan shifted to a military approach towards the Taliban and the TTP.

Besides this, Kabul's support, or its inability to control the TTP, is an important factor for the fallout. However, the differences between Pakistan's Establishment and the Taliban started much earlier, when Pakistan's Deep State was under pressure from U.S. Admiral Mike Mullen's hard-hitting statement that the Taliban (the Haqqani network in particular) was the "veritable arm of the ISI." Though the ISI did not give up the top leadership of the Taliban and al Qaeda, several second-rung leaders got arrested or handed over to the U.S. While the U.S. accused the ISI of playing a double game, similar sentiments grew within the Taliban as well.

When the U.S. wondered why Pakistan was unwilling to give up on the Taliban, many within Pakistan would cite sociological reasons for the long-standing ties. In the tribal regions, they would say, giving refuge and defending that decision was least understood by the West. Perhaps, Pakistan ignores or does not want to appreciate the same reason today. The Afghan Taliban do not want to give up today's TTP members, who gave refuge to them when they were running and hiding before 2021.

Another factor is the Islamic State in Khorasan for not wanting to give up the TTP. The Taliban – whether in Afghanistan or in Pakistan – has never been monolithic.

Different tribes and sub-tribes fought along the Taliban and the TTP banner then; today, a section sees the Islamic State as a better banner and ideologically closer. For the Afghan Taliban, an expansion of the IS-Khorasan is a bigger threat, hence it does not want to antagonise the TTP.

Kabul also blames Pakistan for externalising its internal threat. Given the terrorist infrastructure and the ideological support base within Pakistan, it is not going to be an easy task for the political and military leadership to address militancy within. However, blaming Afghanistan and India would be an easy strategy to externalise an internal problem that Pakistan had cultivated since the 1980s. What now lies in tatters is both the Pakistan-Taliban relationship and, more importantly, the age-old societal links, along with Pakistan's carefully cultivated strategic depth narrative. For Pakistan, Afghanistan should now be a strategic trap that it would want to avoid. The Afghan-Pakistan relationship would remain conflict-prone.

An unequal battlefield

There is an inherent asymmetry between Pakistan and Afghanistan in terms of military, economic, and political strength. Militarily, the Taliban is no match to Pakistan's armed forces. Without an air force or navy, it can never fight an "open war" with Pakistan. While Pakistan's air force and missiles provide the reach to strike deep inside the Afghanistan territory, the Taliban has a limited arsenal to hit deep inside Pakistan. Though there is an expectation that drone warfare would provide a level playing field for the Taliban, it could only cover a limited geography, east of the Durand.

Though Pakistan's economy has also been facing challenges, Afghanistan's is worse. As a landlocked country, it is dependent on the Karachi port for almost everything. On trade, Afghanistan is more dependent on Pakistan and not vice versa. Unless Afghanistan finds alternate routes that could bring goods in substantial numbers, Pakistan can strangulate Afghanistan by closing the passes.

The Taliban's global outreach is also limited. Pakistan today has a regional clout, especially in West Asia, and the current leadership has a better equation with U.S. President Donald Trump. Perhaps the new status of Mr. Trump's "good general" in Pakistan provides Rawalpindi with more space to be more adventurous in the region than previous military leaders. This would also mean Pakistan can play tougher in negotiations.

Given these asymmetries, if the Taliban has to respond, it would engage in not-so "open wars" with Pakistan. Besides its willingness to control the TTP, the Taliban's capacity and its strategic calculation would limit its response vis-à-vis what Pakistan wants on the TTP. What would this mean for the future of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and stability across the Durand Line? A tough question for the two countries, and for the region.

D. Suba Chandran is Professor and Dean at the School of Conflict and Security Studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, and heads NIAS Pakistan Reader

THE GIST

- Escalating cross-border strikes between Pakistan and Afghanistan expose a widening political, military, and societal divide between Islamabad and Kabul, despite earlier attempts at dialogue and de-escalation.
- Disputes over the handling of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, rising militant activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Pakistan's shift to a military approach deepen mistrust between the establishment and the Taliban leadership.
- With clear asymmetry in military, economic, and diplomatic strength, the confrontation pushes the bilateral relationship into a fragile and conflict-prone phase.

NIMHANS to host 3-day conference from March 5

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

NIMHANS is to host a three-day international conference on 'Clinical Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience' (I-CNCNC 2026) from March 5 in Bengaluru. The conference will be held on the theme, 'Brain Health: From Theory to Practice'.

The event, along with a one-day pre-conference workshop, aims to bring together mental health professionals, clinical psychologists, neuropsychologists, neuroscientists, researchers, engineers, and students working in the area of neurocognition and brain health. Experts from India and abroad are expected to participate, presenting research findings and clinical insights relevant to brain health and cognitive functioning.

Basavaraj Bommai.

'World leaders must act before further disaster'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai has appealed to global leaders to immediately intervene and stop the ongoing conflict in West Asia before it leads to further catastrophe.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, he expressed deep concern over the escalating conflict and said while Israel has launched attacks on Iran, Iran is retaliating, creating a "highly alarming situation."

"Not only Israel but also the United States stands behind the current developments. The West Asia is a crucial region for the world's economic and cultural stability and has historically witnessed several wars. Earlier, wars were fought over Jerusalem in the name of religion. Now conflicts are being driven by petroleum and religious issues. The United States is trying to assert control over oil resources and is not in a position to heed anyone's advice," he said.

Responding to a question about the possibility of a third world war, the former Chief Minister said China and Russia have not yet entered the battlefield and appear to be observing the situation strategically. "If they join the war, it could escalate to a much larger scale. Before such a major disaster occurs, world leaders must act to stop the war," Mr. Bommai said.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) 11 KV 3x300 Sq.mm Straight Through Jointing Kits (b) 1Cx150 Sq.mm LT XLPE Cable on e-procurement platform.

For further details of each item above, please visit www.tgsouthernpower.org, www.tender.telangana.gov.in, www.auction.telangana.gov.in.

Phone:040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026

Sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER (P&MM)
TGSPDCL, Hyderabad

DIPR R.O.No.1228-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:02-03-2026

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
WEBSITE www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTIFICATION

1. Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064, proposes to engage 192 candidates to undergo training for the year 2025-26, under the Apprentices Act, 1961 in various designated trades, viz., Fitter, Machinist, Mechanic (Motor Vehicle), Turner, CNC Programming-cum-operator, Electrician and Electronic Mechanic.
2. Candidates may see the Notification which is available in the Website of Rail Wheel Factory, viz., www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in for details and apply accordingly.

Last Date of submission of Application is 01/04/2026

for PRINCIPAL CHIEF PERSONNEL OFFICER

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: **Name of work:** "Execution of civil engineering works for colouring after necessary repairing inside the underground RCC Box tunnel from Dumdum to Tollygunge along with painting of dispersals, fire hydrant pipe line and other allied works of Metro Railway, Kolkata". **Approx Cost of Work :** ₹ 8,36,82,702.14; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 5,68,400.00; **Completion Period:** 09 (Nine) Months; **Date and Time of Closing:** 25.03.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2554-2026-(Open)

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2025-26/IND0026/Call-2 Date: 02/03/2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of **"100 Mobile Phones for District Hardware Consultants, BMC Staff, Revenue Department, Karnataka".** The last date for uploading filled tender form in K.P.P Portal is **10/03/2026 by 5.28 P.M.** Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner,
Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DIPR/CP/SPAN/5952/2025-26

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA
113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore- 560 004
Phone:, 22410151,22429151, 26601152/53 sssbn1vvp@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX - IV, (See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Smt.Meenakshi, Sri.S.Karthik and Sri.Somashekar

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12), 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **09/12/2025** calling upon the Borrowers **(1) Smt.Meenakshi** W/o Somashekar, **(2) Sri.Karthik.S** S/o Somashekar and **(3) Sri.Somashekar** S/o Yellappa Reddy all are residing at No.69, 7th Cross, Near Kalpataru Bank, Bellandur, Bangalore-560103 demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.79,50,671/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakhs Fifty Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy One only)** together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by them, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers have failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned have taken possession of the property mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on his under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **02nd day March 2026.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha** for a sum of **Rs.75,09,297/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Seven only) on 02.03.2026** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Schedule : All that piece and parcel of Property (belonging to 1) Smt.Meenakshi, 2) Sri.Karthik.S and 3)Sri.Somashekar) bearing No.12, formed in Sy.No.17/1 Presently comes under BBMP limits, Katha No.17/1, of Ambalipura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore. Measuring East to west 50.3" and North to South 36.3" (5.25ft X 36.25ft), totally measuring 1821.56 Sq.ft and consisting of five floors commercial building measuring 8660 Sq.ft Commercial Building bounded on : East by : 25 Feet Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No.13, South by : Site No.11.

Date : 02.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RDW&S DEPARTMENT
Court Road, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Office And EE : 08226-226054, E-mail : eerdwsd.chn2014@gmail.com

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 11/2025-26 Dated : 27-02-2026

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Dept, **Providing Manpower Services to District And Taluk Water Quality Testing Laboratories On Outsources Basis in RDW&SD, Chamarajanagara District** Estimated Amount **Rs. 59.16 Lakhs** are required to submit through E-Procurement portal 2.0, **kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Date and Time of Publication of Tender 27-02-2026 at 11.00 Hrs, Last date of Submission of bids 07-03-2026 at 17.00 Hrs, Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid 09-03-2026 at 11.00 Hrs, Tenders are invited through E-procurement Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW & S Department,
Chamarajanagara Division
Chamarajanagara

DIPR : CHANAGAR:749:2025-26

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR & SAHID NAGAR, ODISHA
Phone/Fax :- 0674-2540578(O) / e-Mail : eephiibbsr@gmail.com

Office Order No.1970 / Dt. 27/02/26

Bid Identification No. EEPHBBSR-68 / 2025-26 Dt. 07.01.2026

1) **The Tender ID : - 2026_PHEO_124381_1** for the work "Automation of water supply to Odagaon NAC (24x7 Water Supply) including O & M for five years." **is hereby cancelled due to 1st time single bid.**

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H.DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR

13001/438/2526 OIPR-13001/13205/1/25-26/0003

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road,
Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Name of the work : Construction of Minority Welfare Department, Morarji Desai Residential School (1st Phase) at Madhapura Village, Savanuru Taluk, Haveri District and Morarji Desai Residential PU College (1st Phase) at Shankrikoppa Village, Akkialuru Hobli, Hangal Taluk, Haveri District. **Work Indent No.**KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 716 & IFT No.159/2025-26 Date : 25.02.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.24,12,64,396/-

Last date for submission of bid: 27.03.2026 up to 4 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5926/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests
Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande Kaval, Kammagondanahalli Jalahalli West, Bangalore-560015
Ph No. 080-23343464, Email ID – dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂ. ಎ9/ಮರ ಕಾವಣೆ/ಬಿಆರ್– 123/168 /2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24.02.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of all citizens of Bengaluru that General Manager, KRIDE(SEMU) Bangalore have submitted applications to the undersigned for removal of trees in various Railways developmental projects at various sites in and around Bangalore District. Details as given below.

Name of the project :	Corridor-4 Rajankunte and Mudenahalli Entry/Exit Station of Bangalore Sub Urban Railway BSRP Project	Felling of trees in acquired land for Corridor–4 (Bangalore to Chennai) Bangalore Sub Urban Railway Project between Yelahanka (Avalahalli) and Anekal (Heelalige)
Name of the Agency.	**General Manager, KRIDE (SEMU)**	
Purpose for removal of trees	**Developmental works in Railway lines**	
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS readings	GPS Reading Rajankunte Entry/exit LHS-Start 13° 10'26.2"N 77° 33 '54.7" E, and 13° 10'31.2"N 77° 33 '52.3" E, Rajankunte Entry/exit RHS-Start 13° 10'24.0"N 77° 33 '57.1" E, and 13° 10'23.1"N 77° 33 '57.6" E, Muddenahalli - Entry/exit LHS-Start Starting -13° 08'31.2"N 77° 34 '14.7" E, Tree ending -13° 08'32.1"N 77° 34 '11.2" E, Entry/exit RHS-tree starting 13° 08'26.8"N 77° 34 '17.0" E,ending – 13° 08'32.2"N 77° 34 '17.9" E,	GPS Reading 12° 49'18"N ,77° 42 '43" E,
Total no. of trees proposed to be removed	140 (Annexure - I)	132 (Annexure - I)
	Description of Trees, Species, location, Area Map etc are uploaded in the website of Karnataka Forest Department for information of all. (www.aranya.gov. in)	

Mode of communication of comments (Public can send their comments either by E-mail/ Post / Hand) Address: The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande Forest campus, Kammagondanahalli Jalahalli west, Bangalore-560015. **Email ID : dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in Deadline for filing objections :** Ten (10) days from the date of Publication of this notification* Comments should be relevant and specific to the project.

In this background suggestions and objections invited from all citizens in terms of section 8(3)(vii)of The Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act 1976.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Bangalore Urban Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5950/Zen/2025-26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, Opposite to Sagar Hospitals, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560011.

No:EE(PN)/TEND/15/2025-26 Date: 02-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Tender Document System) **STD. KW-4**

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with Greater Bengaluru Authority (BBMP) or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Resurfacing /Providing Concrete to existing roads, Improvements to drains and footpath in **Ward No-180** Banashankari Temple Ward. **Approximate Value of Work ₹.200.00 Lakhs, EMD ₹. 3,00,000.00**
2.	Resurfacing /Providing Concrete to existing roads, Improvements to drains and footpath in **Ward No-181** Kumaraswamy Layout. **Approximate Value of Work ₹.300.00 Lakhs, EMD ₹. 4,50,000.00**
3.	Resurfacing / Providing Concrete to existing roads, Improvements to drains and footpath in **Ward No-182** Padmanabhanagara. **Approximate Value of Work ₹.500.00 Lakhs, EMD ₹. 7,50,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **17-03-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on **12-03-2026** at **3:00** pm in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jayanagara Zone (Zone-1), BSCC, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560 011. (3) Technical Bids will be opened on **18-03-2026** at **4:05** pm.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Padmanabhanagara Division

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, WIRELESS
No.1, M. G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Phone: +91-80-22864626, E-mail: spwireless@ksp.gov.in

No: 18/MDN/STS/W/DIGITAL UHF/BNG CCR/2025-26 Date: 02/03/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through K.P.P Portal Only)

Additional Director General of Police, Communication, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru has invited a tender for the following works:

1. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0518/Call-2, Date: 27/02/2026**
   Name of Work:- Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital UHF Radio Communication Equipment for Bengaluru City through K.P.P Portal. Estimated Bid value **Rs.485.66 Lakhs.** Pre-bid meeting on **11/03/2026 at 11.30 Hrs.** The Last date and time for tender submission is **30/03/2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**
2. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0520/Call-2, Dated: 27/02/2026**
   Name of Work:- Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Radio Communication Equipment for DGP Control Room and State Intelligence through K.P.P Portal. Estimated Bid value **Rs.215.37 Lakhs.** Pre-bid meeting on **11/03/2026 at 11.30 Hrs.** The Last date and time for tender submission is **30/03/2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**
3. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0521/Call-2, Dated: 27/02/2026**
   Name of Work:- Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Radio Communication Equipment for Internal Security Division (ISD) through K.P.P Portal. Estimated Bid value **Rs.329.36 Lakhs.** Pre-bid meeting on **11/03/2026 at 11.30 Hrs.** The Last date and time for tender submission is **30/03/2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**
4. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0523/Call-2, Dated: 27/02/2026**
   Name of Work:- Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF / UHF Radio Communication Equipment for Mysore City, Hubli-Dharwad City and Mangalore Cities through K.P.P Portal. Estimated Bid value **Rs.324.27 Lakhs.** Pre-bid meeting on **11/03/2026 at 11.30 Hrs.** The Last date and time for tender submission is **30/03/2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**

Further details can be obtained by visiting K.P.P Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For more information, please contact the above office.

DIPR/CP/SMCL/5951/2025-26

Sd/- Superintendent of Police,
Wireless, Bengaluru.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/21/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 02.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)-Call-2

(Through GOK KPP Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sl. No.	Name of the services	Estimate amount of services (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Providing exposure visit service for Pourakarmikas as part of the capacity-building programme.	489.34	06 Months	7,34,010.00
2	Providing exposure visit service for the Executive officials and Technical officials as part of the capacity-building programme.	140.17	06 Months	2,10,255.00

Calendar of Events:

1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: 05.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. in KPP Portal.
2. Pre bid meeting: 06.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore.
3. Last date for submission of the bids: 10.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4. Date of opening of Technical bid on: 11.03.2026 at 16.30 Hrs.
5. Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

NOTE:

1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is support@eprochelpdesk.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
2. EMD payment mode and any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML

DIPR/CP/5943/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-E-Service4/1759/2025-26 Date: 02.03.2026

Short term Tender Notification for Request for Proposal (RFP) For Selection of Consultants for Providing Services
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for Providing Services for Drone Survey of KIADB industrial areas.

Name of the Work : a) Establishment of 2 Control Points using high precision DGPS/GNSS. Drone survey using high resolution UAV to capture aerial imagery. Processing of data to generate topographical maps including contours, spot levels and existing natural & man made features.

b) Collection of cadastral data from available revenue records and maps of the project area, digitization of parcel boundaries and details into digital vector format. Geo referencing to prescribed coordinate system for accurate spatial alignment and mapping.

c) Preparation of survey wise consolidated cadastral maps with contours and submission of final report along with KIADB & JMC hard copies. (Total Extent: 6639 Acres)

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **11.03.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5949/Zen/2025-26

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, NIVEDITHA M M D/O Manjunath M B, R/A no. 260B, Bharathi Nilaya, 1st cross, Shankaripuram, Hassan-573201, here by declare that Niveditya, Niveditha M.M, Niveditha Manjunath, all names belongs to me only. Hence forth I shall be known and called as Niveditha Manjunath only for all legal purposes, Vide affidavit dated 26/02/2026 sworn before Notary H.C. Vasudeva, Hassan

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KARTHIK Ashokan, s/o; Asokan, r/o: No.630, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, 3rd Block,Koramangala,Blr–560034. Have changed my name as Karthik Asokan.

I, DIVYA Karthik, d/o; Shanmuga Sundaram Panjacharam Thiyagarajan, r/o: G–02, Ground Floor, Saroj Sridham, Munnekollal, Blr – 560037. Have changed my name as Divya Thiyagarajan Shanmugasundaram.

I, SHILPA, w/o; Ravishankar Bhat Nekkaremoole, r/o : Flatno 4048, Prestige Lake Ridge, Plot No 115, Yadalam Nagar, Uttarahalli, Blr – 560061. Have changed my name as Shilpa Ravishankar Bhat.

I, VINOD Kumar Y, Date of Birth: 01.04.1995, residing at Kagganur Sarjapur Bagalur Road Krishnagiri District Tamil Nadu– 635103 have change my name to Vinodh Kumar for all future purposes.

I, SENDIL KUMAR RAMAKRISHNAN, S/o RAMAKRISHNAN, residing at 18/3 Mariamman Temple Street, Jaibharath Nagar, Bangalore – 560033, Karnataka, have changed my name from SENDIL KUMAR RAMAKRISHNAN to SENDIL KUMAR vide affidavit dated 28/Feb/2026 sworn before Notary Public, Bangalore. Henceforth, I shall be known as SENDIL KUMAR for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shaheena Salim Nabisab Multani D/O, S N Multani R/o 50 5th Block Kuvempu Sankeerna KSRP Quaters have changed my name to Shaheena S Multani for all purposes.

TENDERS

THE TRAVANCORE SUGARS & CHEMICALS LTD.
(A Kerala Government Company)
Valanjavattom P.O., Thiruvalla, Kerala - 689 104
Tele: Office: 0469-2610711, 2610712, 2610446
Email: travancoresugars65@gmail.com
Website: www.travancoresugars.com

TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited through the Kerala Government E-Procurement Portal (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in) from eligible and experienced bidders for the supply of the following items/services:

1. Tender for Supply of Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) for the period from 01.04.2026 - 30.09.2026 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_840839_1)**
2. Tender for Supply of CB Cases (Cardboard) for 1000 ml PET Bottles for the period from 01.04.2026 - 31.03.2027 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_840857_1)**
3. Tender for Supply of PET Bottles (750 ml) for the period from 01.04.2026 - 31.03.2027 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_840879_1)**
4. Tender for Safe delivery/Transportation of IMFL cases to KSBC Warehouses across Kerala for the period from 01.04.2026 - 31.03.2027 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_840950_1)**
5. Tender for Supply of IMFL Labels (Jawan XXX Rum 1000 ml) for the period from 01.04.2026 - 31.03.2027 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_840980_1)**
6. Tender for Supply of BOPP Tape for IMFL Cases for the period from 01.04.2026 - 31.03.2027 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_841002_1)**
7. Tender for Supply of Gum for pasting IMFL Labels for the period from 01.04.2026 - 31.03.2027 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_841014_1)**
8. Tender for Supply of Canteen Contract for providing food to staff for the period from 01.04.2026 - 31.03.2027 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_841027_1)**
9. Tender for Supply of IMFL Case Labels and Ribbons for the period from 01.04.2026 - 30.09.2026 **(E tender ID - 2026_TSC_841039_1)**

Last Date of Submission - 06.03.2026 at 4 PM. For more details contact office / website.

Thiruvalla 27.02.2026 (Sd) GM (i/c)

BUILDING BLOCKS

Blue's journey illustrates how colour evolves at the intersection of craft, belief, and administration. AFP

From lapis-laden trade routes to mass armies: the changing value of blue

Blue travelled across empires as a marker of divinity, power, and painstaking labour; over time, its value shifted from rarity, ritual, and resonance to performance, supply, and industrial production, revealing the ongoing dialogue between meaning and utility

Satwik Gade

From the lapis-laden trade routes of the Bronze Age, blue travelled east and west, carrying with it power, devotion, and value. By the Kushan period, between the 2nd and 4th centuries CE, ultramarine pigment was extracted from Afghan lapis lazuli through a complex and painstaking process of crushing it carefully and treating it with beeswax to extract its colour. The famous Kushan Buddha sculptures, known as the Bamiyan Buddhas, were colossal figures, carved into cliffs and painted with deep, lustrous blue. They were not merely artistic creations – they were cosmological statements. Blue marked divinity, enclosing sacred space, linking material effort with spiritual authority. The pigment was painstakingly prepared, expensive, and treasured; value was precisely tied to measurement.

By the Renaissance, blue had crossed continents and centuries to enter Europe's ateliers. Ultramarine was the most coveted pigment: Michelangelo applied it only sparingly, Raphael and Leonardo reserved it for the Virgin Mary's robes, while Titian used it to heighten divinity in his compositions. Papal and noble patronage dictated its use, and painters could afford it only for top coats or sacred highlights. In this world, blue carried both economic and symbolic weight: to see it on canvas was to witness power, sanctity, and painstaking labour distilled into a single hue.

In the early 19th century, the Napoleonic Wars transformed this relationship. Blue, still precious, was no longer solely symbolic. The blue of European woad, cultivated locally for centuries, was pale, inconsistent, and labour-intensive. Indigo, imported through colonial routes, yielded a deeper, stable blue and could be scaled to mass armies. In choosing indigo, Napoleon aligned colour with efficiency, durability, and control. Blue had become a matter of supply. European culture came to signify this break from sentimentality to the steadfast pursuit of utilitarian values.

Uniforms were technologies of discipline. They rendered bodies legible, ranks visible, and allegiance unmistakable. Blue functioned less as a bearer of meaning than as an instrument of order. This marks a pivotal moment in colour history: value was judged by performance under pressure rather than rarity, ritual, or resonance. Napoleon's indigo exemplified this separation, as a pigment which gave divine legitimacy to governance became a resource of secular statecraft.

Napoleon's eventual defeat only intensified this logic. Britain's victory consolidated access to indigo plantations in India and the Caribbean and this coincided with a surge in large-scale historical painting. The Royal Academy of Arts exhibited canvases of battles, regiments, and fleets, skies heavy with smoke, uniforms rendered in precise blue. Painters required volumes of ultramarine far beyond natural supplies. The pigment that had once been reserved for sacred imagery now strained under the weight of national memory and artistic ambition.

Necessity drove innovation. Between 1815 and 1825, the Royal Academy, as well as the French Société d'Encouragement, offered a prize for the creation of a synthetic ultramarine as brilliant as lapis but affordable. Jean-Baptiste Guimet succeeded within four years, with Christian Gmelin independently developing a parallel process in Germany. Synthetic ultramarine entered the market, stable, scalable, and less dependent on distant mines. Its creation marked the first major moment when colour production became industrial, yet motivated by artistic need.

Goethe was the earliest to see the possibility of industrial production of synthetic colours. In 1786, Goethe abruptly left his home in Weimar and abandoned courtly life to ponder some philosophical problems that were troubling him. As he travelled coastal Italy in 1787, he noticed a blue hue in the smoke that emerged from the chimneys of lime-burning brick kilns. When he examined the walls of the chimney, he noticed that Lazurite, the active chemical which produced the Ultramarine pigment, was being unintentionally created in the quicklime factories.

His colour theory provided the breakthrough which cascaded into broader industrial colour manufacture. By the late 19th century, chemists produced dyes at unprecedented scale; synthetic indigo followed in 1897, ending centuries of local cultivation. Blue, once a marker of divine authority, ritual power, and scarcity, had become widely reproducible. Its value was now linked to economic and utilitarian criteria as much as aesthetic or symbolic ones. Colour had become functional, industrial, and predictable.

Blue's journey illustrates how colour evolves at the intersection of craft, belief, and administration. In tracing its arc, we see not only the material history of a colour but the ongoing dialogue between meaning and utility, between what we revere and what we rely on.

Satwik Gade is a Chennai-based writer and illustrator. This article is part of a series on the history and development of colours

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day in 1923, the first issue of *Time* magazine was published. Here is a quiz on America's first newsweekly

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
Who was named Time's inaugural Man of the Year in 1927?

QUESTION 2
Which of these is a stylistic trademark of the magazine? Is it the prominent red border, the vibrant yellow back cover, or the centre-aligned typeface?

QUESTION 3
One among these famous/infamous figures has never been on the cover of Time: Adolf Hitler, Mahatma Gandhi, Joseph Stalin, Che Guevara

QUESTION 4
The magazine is also known for its annual list of the world's most influential individuals. What is the name of this list, which also indicates the number of honourees?

QUESTION 5
Which female star became the first Indian actor to appear on the magazine's cover?

QUESTION 6
The 1966 cover of the magazine featured nothing but bold red text on a black background. It remains one of the most complained about issues. Name the cover title. (Hint: The issue appears briefly in the classic horror film *Rosemary's Baby*)

QUESTION 7
Breaking from tradition, the magazine listed a non-human entity for the 'Person of the Year'. Which machine received the honour in 1982?

QUESTION 8
1937 marked the first time that the magazine's Person of the Year honour went to more than one person. Name the political couple who were exiled in 1949 after a coup?

Visual Question:
The 2019 cover triggered intense political debate. Who wrote the cover story?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. How many different teams prior to J&K have won the Ranji Trophy? **Ans: 18 teams**
2. Which bowler finished the season with 60 wickets? **Ans: Auqib Nabi (J&K)**
3. Which team made it to the semifinals for the first time in its history? **Ans: Uttarakhand**
4. Who won Plate Championship? **Ans: Bihar**
5. What feat did Arjun Sharma and Mohit Jhangra achieve for the first time? **Ans: Two different bowlers from the same team took a hat-trick in the exact same innings**
6. The highest individual score in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy season was the 299. **Ans: Bengal's Sudip Kumar Gharami**
7. Who was named Player-of-the-tournament? **Ans: Auqib Nabi**
Visual: Name this batter. **Ans: R. Smaran**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli | K.N. Viswanathan | Erfanally Oosmany | Tito Shiladitya | Sudhir Thapa

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What are the metal clips that are found at both ends of a shoe lace called?
(S. T. Venkatraman, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu)
The tiny metal clip found at either end of a shoe lace is called an "aglet". The "a" is pronounced like the "a" in "cat", "bat", and "hat". The "e" is like the "i" in "bit", "hit", and "sit". The stress is on the first syllable.

What is the meaning of the expression, "if push comes to shove"?
(T. R. Anantharaman, Porur, Chennai)
This is a slang expression which is normally used to refer to pressure situations; situations which demand an action of some sort. The NTC Dictionary of American Slang defines the expression in the following manner: "when things get a little pressed; when the situation gets more active or intense".

If push comes to shove, the teachers can be asked to stay back all night and finish the work.

The expression "when push comes to shove" means the same as "if push comes to shove".

When push comes to shove, you know I'll be there for you.

Politicians and political parties keep referring to "USP". What does "USP" stand for?
(P. V. K. Murthy, Chennai)
It is an abbreviation for "unique selling proposition".

What is the meaning of "tryst"? How is the word pronounced?
(C. V. Srinivasamurthy, Chennai)
The "tr" is like the "tr" in "train", "truck", and "trip". The "yst" is pronounced like the "ist" in words like "fist", "mist", and "list".

A tryst is usually used to refer to an arrangement between lovers to meet in a secret place at a specific time. The word is not used very often these days as it is considered old-fashioned.

Rajesh walked several miles to keep his tryst with Tina.

The word cannot be used to refer to all meetings. It is usually restricted to meetings between lovers. One does not refer to a meeting with one's boss as a "tryst"; unless of course one's boss happens to be one's boyfriend or girlfriend!

What is the difference between "pushover" and "cakewalk"?
(C. Sandeep, Tirupathi)
Both "pushover" and "cakewalk" are informal words used to refer to things which can be done easily.

Unlike the word "cakewalk", "pushover" can also be used to refer to people. A "pushover" is someone who can be easily influenced or defeated.

The students thought they could get the Principal to cancel the classes. But he was no pushover.

Is it "affiliated to" or "affiliated by"?
(T. Venkatraman, Nellore)
The words "to" and "with" usually follow "affiliated". For example:

The college is affiliated to Osmania University.

The local group is affiliated with Prithvi theatre.

Published in The Hindu on October 5, 1999

Word of the day

Reticent:
temperamentally disinclined to talk

Synonyms:
restrained, secretive, cautious

Usage: *She felt reticent about sharing her opinion.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/reticentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /retɪsənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Two integrated solid waste management parks to be set up on the outskirts of city

The proposed plants are part of BSWML's effort to improve the scientific processing of municipal waste as the city continues to generate 6,000 tonnes of solid waste every day: CEO of BSWML

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two integrated solid waste management parks are set to come up on the city's outskirts, with one facility planned at Gollahalli in Bengaluru South on government land, while the second will be established at Doddabelavangala in Doddaballapur, Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), said on Monday.

For the Doddabelavangala project, 70 acres will be acquired, with farmers to receive compensation of ₹1.57 crore per acre.

Mr. Gowda said the proposed plants are part of the BSWML's effort to improve the scientific processing of municipal waste as the city continues to generate around 6,000 tonnes of solid waste every day. He said land measuring over 100 acres across the identified locations, including areas near Terra Farm in Gundalahalli village of Doddabelavangal Hobli, has been earmarked for comprehensive solid waste management infrastructure. The land acquisition process would be taken up after the disbursal of compensation fixed by the government, he added.

CEO of BSWML Karee Gowda during a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday.
ALLEN EGENUSE J.

EPR credits

Meanwhile, in a first for Bengaluru, the city has earned up to ₹1.8 crore through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) credits. The BSWML generated the revenue by selling 18,000 tonnes of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) produced from plastic waste to Dalmia Cement, which issued 3,600 EPR credits. The credits are projected to generate revenue ranging between ₹54 lakh and ₹1.8 crore, which, officials said, would contribute to sustainable plastic waste management.

Mr. Gowda said that nearly 520 tonnes of low-value plastic, categorised under the RDF, was currently being collected daily. The agency has set a target of increasing this to 1,000 tonnes per day. Before October 2025, the collection of low-value plastic stood at around 10%. Following intensified campaigns and stricter enforcement measures, the volume of the RDF collection has increased nearly 50 times," he said.

Penalty

The agency has also intensified action against littering and non-segregation. An average of ₹60 lakh is collected every month in fines from violators within the Greater Bengaluru Authority area. Using these funds, one tractor has been purchased for each Assembly constituency to clear bulk waste, Mr. Gowda said, adding that over the past three months, more than 6,000 tonnes of bulk waste have been cleared using these tractors.

Residents facing garbage-related issues under the GBA can lodge complaints through the Sahay 2.0 platform, the GBA helpline number 1533, or the WhatsApp chatbot number 94481 97197, the BSWML CEO said.

Swachh Survekshan

As part of the Swachh Survekshan campaign, Mr. Gowda said the BSWML has appointed Padma Shri awardee Manjamma Jogathi, film actor Aniruddha Jatkar and social activist Arun Pai as ambassadors to create awareness among citizens about cleanliness and segregation.

Unidentified man found dead on train tracks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An unidentified man aged between 35 and 40 years was found dead on the railway tracks at Soladevanahalli in North Bengaluru on Monday.

According to police, the body was discovered in a severely mutilated condition. The body parts were found scattered along the track. The face was damaged beyond recognition, making identification difficult. Preliminary investigation suggests that the man may have been run over by a train late on Sunday night. Officials from the Yeshwantpur Railway Police visited the spot.

SWR records best-ever freight loading in February

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

South Western Railway (SWR) has reported a strong financial and operational performance for February 2026 and the financial year 2025-26 up to February, driven by growth in both freight and passenger segments.

According to a release, the zone achieved an overall gross revenue of ₹8,550 crore during the current financial year up to February 2026, registering a growth of 14.31% compared to the corresponding period last year. Freight revenue remained the primary contributor at ₹4,876 crore, reflecting a significant increase of 18.27%. Passenger revenue also witnessed steady growth, reaching ₹3,154 crore, up by 9.25%.

In February 2026 alone, the zone recorded a gross revenue of ₹780 crore, marking a 7.25% rise year-on-year. The passenger earnings for the month stood at ₹307 crore, showing a notable growth of 14.5%, with 13.66 million passengers travelling across the zone. The freight revenue during February reached ₹415 crore, supported by improved loading performance. The commercial sundry revenue rose to ₹26.38 crore, while ticket checking earnings increased to ₹6.32 crore.

On the freight front, SWR loaded 47.5 million tonnes (MT) of originating freight during the financial year, compared to 40.6 MT during the same period last year, registering a growth of 17%. Commodity-wise, iron ore loading reached 19 MT (up 10.7%), steel loading rose sharply to 9.8 MT (up 35.9%), and coal loading improved to 9.3 MT (up 16.6%).

In February alone, the zone loaded 4.26 MT of originating freight, a 5.3% increase over the previous year.

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- Academia & Researchers
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06 MARCH, 2026 | 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
For any Queries Kindly Contact
Sharanabasava (SPO)
+91 81975 51463
बेंगलुरु शाखा कार्यालय BENGALURU BRANCH OFFICE

PUBLICE NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **SRI. SUDARSHAN.R.** S/o Late. Ramaiah, aged about 47 years R/at. No.108, 2nd Cross, 10th Main Road, Shankara Nagara Bangalore-560 096 had negotiated to purchase the Schedule property from **SRI. SATHYANARAYANA B.V.** S/o Late. Bettakote Dodda Venkarayarappa aged about 82 years and **SMT. VIJAYALAKSHMI @ UMADEVI**, W/o Sri. Sathyanarayana B.V. aged about 63 years, both are R/at:952, 36th cross, Poorna prajna Badavane, Ward No.184, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-560 061, Any person/s claiming any manner of right, title, and interest over the schedule property called upon to lodge such claim/s or objection with the under signed in writing with supporting documents with in 10 (ten) days from the date of publication. If no such objection or claims are received within the set period failing which my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property same as "Free from claims of whatsoever manner and no claims shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Sl.No.	Site.No.	CMC Khatha No.	BBMP Khatha No.	BBMP EPID Khatha No.	Measurement	Boundary List
Item No.1	05	230	230	3400314623	52X30	East-Site No.12 West- 25 feet Road North- Site No.6 South- Site No.4
Item No.2.	06	186	363	4067349148	50X30	East-Site No.11 West- Road North- Site No.7 South- Site No.5
Item No.3.	07	99	99	1943542651	50X30	East-Site No.10 West- Road North- Site No.8 South- Site No.6
Item No.4	08	556/2010	115	3444088694	50X30+24/2	East-Site No.9 West- Road North- Pvt property South- Site No.7
Item No.5	10	568	117	4047092290	50X30	East-Road West- Site No.7 North- Site No.9 South- Site No.11
Item No.6	11	566	119	3444162469	50X30	East-Road West- Site No.6 North- Site No.10 South- Site No.12
Item No.7	12	452	452	6240360398	50X30	East-Road West- Site No.5 North- Site No.11 South- Site No.13
Item No.8	09	557	116	3444139517	50X30	East-Road West- Site No.8 North-others property South- Site No.10

All items are comes under survey No. 63/3 previously CMC ward No.5, then comes under BBMP T. Dasarahalli Zone ward No.14, located at Mallasandra village, Kasaba Hobli, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 03-03-2026

V.L.RAGHU.
Advocate,
No. 792/1, 1st Floor,
C.M. Nivas,
T. Dasarahalli,Tumkur Road,
Bangalore-560 057
Mob: 9980311276, 9845356773

PUBLIC NOTICE
(LOSS OF DOCUMENT)

My client **SYEDA ARIFA SHAHEEN, Aadhaar No.5887 0872 7176** Aged about 51 years, W/o.Mr.Syed Naseeruddin, Residing at # 10, Ground Floor, 9th "B" Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Manorayanapalya, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032, who was the custodian of the Original Registered Sale Deed dated:30-12-1995 which is Registered as Document No.8497 of 1995-96 at Pages 158 to 162 in Volume No.5597 of Book-I, by the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, which is a link document of the Gift Deed dated:28-05-2024 in respect of Residential Vacant Site Bearing Municipal Corporation **No.32,** Old Site No.13, Property No.96171 **New E-PID No.96-171-32** situated at 6th "A" Cross, Kanakanagara, Old BBMP Ward No.96 New BBMP Ward No.22, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli, Bangalore, and the same has been lost and misplaced by my client while in transit at Kanakanagar, Bangalore.

That the finder if any may please contact the undersigned who will be suitably rewarded for the same.

ABDUL LATEEF KHAN
M.A.,LL.B., **Advocate,**
No.16, 12th Cross, B.S.A. Road,
1st Stage, Pillanna Garden, B'lore-84.
M : 9845110533
Place : Bangalore Date : 02-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that our client **Mr. Deepak N, son of Mr. Narasimha Murthy N,** with an intention to purchase the Property mentioned in the Schedule below, has entered into a registered Sale Agreement with its owners-Smt. M. Krishnamma wife of Late. B. Govindarajulu (B.G. Rajulu), Smt. Rajeshwari D/o Late. B. Govindarajulu (B.G. Rajulu), Smt. Vijayalakshmi G, D/o Late. B. Govindarajulu (B.G. Rajulu), Sri. Harish G S/o Late. B. Govindarajulu (B.G. Rajulu) and Sri. Chandrashekar G. S/o Late. B. Govindarajulu (B.G. Rajulu), residing at No.13, 2nd Cross, Opp to Ganesh Temple, Cholurupaly, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023.

If any person/s entity, Board, any Government Authorities, Banks, Society etc., has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the Schedule Property or any part, thereof, such a person submit its/his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **07 (Seven) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims/objections and our clients shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Corporation No.47 of Agrahara Dasarahalli, (Sy.No.39) Bangalore City, Ward No.21, now comes under the purview of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.105 and assigned as property bearing New Municipal No.35, PID No.21-97-35, Property New E.P.I.D. No.4304201925, 80 feet Road, K.H.B. 2nd Stage, Bangalore, measuring East to West: **48 feet,** North to South: **20 feet,** totally measuring **960 square feet,** together with 960 square feet A.C. Sheet roofed commercial shop, and bounded on the: -

East by : Private Property, West by : 30 feet Road now 80 feet Road, North by : Site No.48, South by : Portion of same property sold to Kempegowda now Property of Sakala Ram.

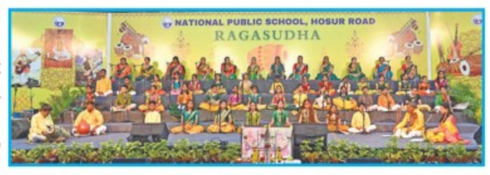
KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram Bangalore-500 020.
Mobile No.9740718436

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

GRADUATION DAY CELEBRATED

National Hill View Public School, RR Nagar celebrated their Graduation Day, Aashirvachan 2025–26, marking their Silver Jubilee year. The ceremony was graced by Trustee Secretary Schools Ms. Aisshwarya DKS Hegde, Principal Ms. Shanthi Venkat, and Chief Guest Miss Disha R. S., an alumna. The programme began with the invocation and Gnana Pradeepthi, followed by the ceremonial procession of Grade XII students. Miss Disha R. S. inspired learners with her address, after which teachers and the Trustee Secretary shared their messages. Mementos and sashes were presented, and the Principal felicitated long-serving staff. The event concluded with lamp lighting, the school song, and a vote of thanks.

CARNATIC MUSIC EVENING PRESENTED



NPS–Hosur Road hosted "Ragasudha 2026 – An Evening of Divine Harmony", a Carnatic music concert celebrating India's classical heritage. More than 30 students from Grades 1 to 9 rendered soulful compositions in various ragas, joined by music-loving teachers, creating a warm collaborative performance. The concert followed months of dedicated training under the school's music teachers. Accomplished musicians on the violin, mridangam, and ghatam enhanced the event with rich tonal and rhythmic support. The evening highlighted the school's efforts to nurture cultural traditions and concluded to enthusiastic applause.

GRADUATION DAY CELEBRATED

St. Claret School celebrated the Graduation Day of their 27th SSLC batch with a warm and emotional farewell. The event began with a prayer song and was graced by Chief Guest Retired Air Marshal T. D. Joseph, AVSM, VM, VSM. Rev. Fathers, Sisters, and representatives from neighbouring institutions attended. Seniors presented 'Echoes of Remembrance' and a nostalgic video. Special awards recognised achievers, and dance performances enthralled the audience. The School Captain administered the pledge, and Rev. Fr. Abraham, Principal, addressed the batch before the evening concluded with dinner and live music.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

BJP plans convention in May to mark BSY's 50 years of political life

Party sources say the event will be used to send a unity message and also sound the poll bugle for the 2028 Assembly elections; Yediyurappa is expected to take up a State tour after the convention

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party is set to hold a massive convention in Chitradurga in May to mark five decades of the political career by its veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

Sources in the party said that the convention would be used to not only send a unity message, but also to sound the poll bugle, as roughly another two years would be, by then, left for the next elections to the Assembly.

"It is natural for the party to honour a leader like Mr. Yediyurappa on such an occasion as he has built the party brick by brick, and is also responsible for bringing the party to power for the first time in the State. But several leaders are keen to use this occasion to galvanise the party cadre ahead of the polls," a BJP leader told *The Hindu*.

Veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa has already declared that he would tour Karnataka to bring the BJP to power. FILE PHOTO

Concern over groupism

Sources said that a large number of leaders were now concerned that their future would be bleak if groupism in the party did not end. "We are not able to fully use the failures of the Congress government to our advantage mainly owing to a lack of unity in the party. A large number of party leaders are keen to send a unity message from this convention to the cadre as well as the public," they said, while pointing out that all leaders including the rebels would be invited to the convention.

The intention is to create momentum to help strengthen the party organisation ahead of the Assembly elections as well as the forthcoming polls to local bodies, sources noted.

Mr. Yediyurappa, who completed 83 years a few days ago, is expected to take up a State tour after the convention, as he has already declared that he would tour the State to bring the party to power.

Chitradurga was chosen as the venue mainly since it is in the central part of the State, sources explained.

The party has appointed educationist Prabhakar Kore as the president of the reception committee for organising the convention, while former Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol has been appointed honorary president and former Minister B. Sriramulu as the working president.

Mr. Karjol told *The Hindu* that they were expecting a turnout of about 5 lakh. The date of the convention would be decided in consultation with Central leaders, he said.

He said all leaders who either worked or were associated with Mr. Yediyurappa would be invited to the convention along with heads of several mutts.

Since the 1970s

It was in the 1970s that Mr. Yediyurappa began his political life as the president of the Shikaripur taluk unit of the then Jan Sangh and also as the member of the Shikaripur municipality.

He rose in politics later by holding the posts of party State president, Leader of the Opposition, and Chief Minister. His son B.Y. Vijayendra is presently the BJP State president.

Media campaign and enforcement drive shows reduction in average vehicle speed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

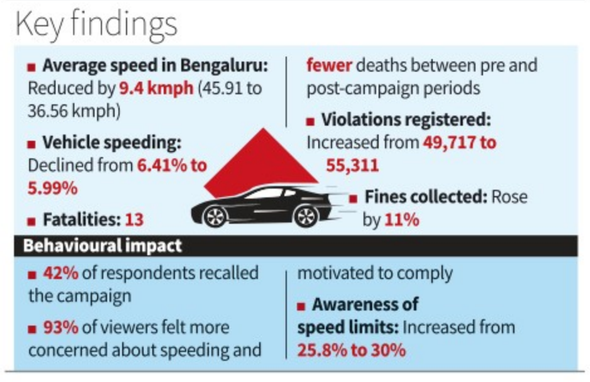
A State-wide mass media campaign against speeding, combined with intensified police enforcement, has contributed to a reduction in average vehicle speeds and a decline in fatalities, according to an evaluation report released by the government on Monday.

The report on the "Motorcycle Reconstruction" campaign was prepared by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion at NIMHANS, in collaboration with Vital Strategies, under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety.

The campaign was implemented by the Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (KSRSA) for three months beginning November 2024, alongside targeted enforcement by the Karnataka State Police.

The triangulation study adopted a multi-source data approach which included data of road use behaviour, enforcement, observational speed and crash data. This data compared pre- and post-campaign evaluation data from Vital Strategies, speed observations by NIMHANS and Johns Hopkins Injury Prevention Unit and violation and crash data from the State police. Together, these data looked at the effectiveness of strategically pairing campaigns with enforcement. This instructional-style campaign featured road safety expert and former NIMHANS director G. Gururaj, who explained that even a small change in speed could affect the likelihood of a crash, its severity, and whether someone survives.

The report on the 'Motorcycle Reconstruction' campaign being released in Bengaluru on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.


Key findings
Average speed in Bengaluru: Reduced by 9.4 kmph (45.91 to 36.56 kmph)
Vehicle speeding: Declined from 6.41% to 5.99%
Fatalities: 13
fewer deaths between pre and post-campaign periods
Violations registered: Increased from 49,717 to 55,311
Fines collected: Rose by 11%
Behavioural impact
42% of respondents recalled the campaign
93% of viewers felt more concerned about speeding and motivated to comply
Awareness of speed limits: Increased from 25.8% to 30%

Findings

Gautham Melur Sukumar, professor of Epidemiology and head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion at NIMHANS, said the average vehicle speed in Bengaluru city declined by 9.4 kmph, falling from 45.91 kmph before the campaign to 36.56 kmph after its implementation. The proportion of vehicles exceeding the speed limit reduced from 6.41% to 5.99%. During the same period, 13 fewer fatalities were recorded, reinforcing the point that crashes at lower speeds are less likely to result in death.

Enforcement activity saw a marked increase. The number of speed violation cases registered across the State rose from 49,717 in the pre-campaign period to 55,311 during the campaign. Fines collected from penalties increased by 11%, reflecting strengthened enforcement measures alongside the media outreach.

Dr. Sukumar said public engagement indicators showed measurable impact. About 42% of respondents recalled the campaign. Among those who had seen it, 93% said it made them more concerned about speeding and motivated them to adhere to posted speed limits. Nearly 32% discussed the advertisement with others, and 38% reported persuading someone not to speed.

Knowledge of speed limits improved from 25.8% in 2024 to 30% in 2025- a rise of 4.2% points- which meant that the message has been drilled down into a significant section of road users and that indirectly would prevent these lives on the road, he said.

Internal quota: Dalit Left communities and STs gear up for demonstrations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the State government has asked recruitment departments/authorities to initiate recruitment for 56,432 posts with a cap of 50% in reservation and without internal reservation among Scheduled Castes, the Dalit Left communities and Scheduled Tribes affected by the decision are gearing up for protests against the decision.

They could demand resignation of Dalit Left Ministers in the Siddaramaiah-led cabinet, K.H. Muniyappa and R.B. Thimmapur, to build pressure on the government. They are also planning to approach the court.

While the Dalit Left communities that have fought for internal reservation for nearly four decades are upset at the DPAR notification that has asked the recruitment departments/authorities to go ahead with notifications as per 50% reservation cap and without internal reservation, the ST community is incensed at its quota being brought down from 7% to the earlier 3%.

Activists from these communities also indicated that they will coordinate their actions together.

Though the government has said that 2% and 4% posts will be reserved for SCs and STs respectively, till the court order, the communities claim that SCs and STs are set to lose about 1,128 and 2,257 posts, respectively, in the current recruitment cycle.

In 9th schedule

"We do not want the government to start the recruitment process without 7% reservation. The State government should urge the Centre to bring the 56% reservation in the 9th Schedule. The 7% reservation was based on our population. The community will stand to lose if the recruitment goes ahead," said Deepak Palegar, president of Mysuru-based Ekalavya Vidyarthi Yuvajana Parishat, a youth organistion of the Valmiki community.

"When both 56% reservation and internal reservation for SCs are in court, how can the government hold recruitment for 50%? Is it legal? We will protest and also seek legal recourse against the recruitment process," said parishat general secretary Prahalad Palegar.

Members of the parishat on Monday also met V.S. Ugrappa, former MP, to discuss the future course of action.

Meanwhile, several Dalit (Left) organisations have come together under the Federation of Madiga Sanghas to fight against dropping internal reservation from the reservation matrix.

Protests planned

While the Committee for Internal Reservation for Social Justice has already announced a rally on March 11 in Bengaluru and a padayatra from Tumakuru to Bengaluru, it is also coordinating with other organisations to call for a State-wide bandh protesting the decision. The outline of future protests will be decided on Tuesday, committee coordinator Basavaraj Kowthal said.

Tobacco crop size reduced to 90 million kg for 2026-27

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Tobacco Board has reduced the crop size for Karnataka from 100 million kg during 2025-26 to 90 million kg for 2026-27. The reduction in crop size comes in the wake of the drop in prices of tobacco.

Tobacco Board chairman Yashwanth Kumar, who participated in the board's meeting held in Mysuru on Monday, said the crop size had been reduced not only in view of subdued demand, but also to ensure that the current crop is marketed at a remunerative price.

Ministers and officials at the meeting of the Tobacco Board in Mysuru on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

Even though the crop size for 2025-26 was fixed at 100 million kg, the production is estimated to be only 87.97 million kg.

Tobacco farmers in Karnataka had resorted to an agitation after the prices of bright grade varieties fell from a peak of ₹320 to ₹270-280 last month.

The traders, who scaled down procurement, blamed the reduced demand for cigarettes on its higher price after the Union Budget levied Excise duty and increased the GST on tobacco products from 28 to 40%.

During the meeting, Indian Tobacco Association (ITA) secretary Y.A. Chowdary said production had gone up in countries like Brazil and Zimbabwe, which is also impacting prices.

Besides, Mr. Chowdary said the shipping of tobacco to foreign destinations too had been disrupted owing to the conflict in West Asia and its implications in West Asian countries.

Responding to demands from elected representatives on options for farmers to shift from tobacco cultivation, Mr. Kumar said Niti Aayog is promoting crop diversification to replace tobacco with alternative crops.

Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture K. Venkatesh and A. Manju, JD(S) MLA also sought a compensation for farmers who gave up their tobacco cultivation licence.

Archakas' federation seeks rise in thasthik

The Hindu Bureau
BANGALURU

The Akhila Karnataka Hindu Temple Archakas, Agamikas and Upadhivantas Federation, an organisation representing priests and temple personnel, have demanded enhancement of the monthly thasthik honorarium from the present ₹6,000 to ₹10,000, among other things.

Even this revised amount would still remain below the minimum wages fixed by the government, said the federation in a press conference here on Monday, seeking a minimum monthly grant of ₹5,000 towards puja materials. Other employees serving in the temples should be paid a minimum monthly salary of ₹5,000, the federation said.

"In temples across the State, more than 2 lakh individuals render continuous service without any holidays. Along with the priests, there are numerous assistants and supporting staff," said federation's president K.E. Radhakrishna and chief general secretary K.S.N. Dixit.

They said while the State government has implemented several welfare schemes, nearly 90% of the Muzrai temples located in rural areas, categorised under 'C' Grade, have not received adequate attention.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No.Civil/EST/43/2025-26 : TCN No.5085, dt.20.02.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall), in Lakhanpur Block under Jharsuguda District .
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1487.34 Lakhs.
3. Period of completion : 9 (Nine) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.06.03.2026
ii. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.23.03.2026
iii. Opening date : 11.30 Hours of dt.24.03.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in e-procurement portal as well as in IDCO website.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Civil) IDCO, Bhubaneswar
4001/45/2526 OIPR-4001/4075/1/25-26/0019

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAMB)
(A Statutory Organization of Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952410, Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com
Corrigendum No.1 to RFP Dated:27.02.2026

"Selection of Programme Management Consultant (PgMC) for Providing Engineering Services for Various Projects of Odisha State Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAM Board)" RFP Document uploaded with :
Page No. 2,
The indicative bid process revised timelines are as below:

Sl.No.	Activity	Time Line
1.	Upload of Pre-Bid Clarification date & time	27-02-2026
2.	Due Date for Submission of Proposal	10-03-2026
3.	Opening of Technical Bid	11-03-2026
4.	Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated Later

Page No. 11,
Pre-Qualification Criteria Sl. No 3
Read as
Bidder must have successfully completed at least Three (3) assignments of similar* nature (having project value each ≥ INR 50 Crores**, in the infrastructure / construction sector under Central / State Govt. / Externally Aided Projects / Autonomous bodies operated under Govt. administrative control / PSU during the last 10 Years as on the bid due date
Page No. 59,
TECH-5, PAST EXPERIENCE OF THE BIDDER
Read as
Note: Bidders are requested to furnish the list of assignments of similar undertaken during the last 10 Years (preceding the due date of proposal) as per the above prescribed format only.
Page No. 59,
TECH-5, PAST EXPERIENCE OF THE BIDDER
Note:
For each additional similar project conforming to the above conditions : - 3 Marks may be read as 5 Marks
The Authority reserves the right to reject any / all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

General Manager, OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar
39001/16/2526 OIPR-39001/39024/1/25-26/0005

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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1 in 4 Indian breast cancer patients carry inherited genetic risk

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

One in four Indian breast cancer patients carries an inherited genetic variant linked to cancer risk, with the majority of these variants occurring outside the well-known BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, a new study has found.

Findings of the study, conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) and Karkinos Healthcare, along with Kumaran Hospital, Chennai, and the Chennai Breast Centre, were published in *BMC Cancer*.

The study analysed germline DNA from 479 unselected breast cancer patients, whose samples were sourced from the National Cancer Tissue Biobank at IIT-Madras. The researchers examined 97 cancer susceptibility genes, including BRCA1, BRCA2, and 15 genes involved in the homologous recombination repair pathway. A special focus was placed on RECQL, an emerging breast cancer gene with highly population-specific patterns.

The study found that 24.6% of patients carried at least one pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant. Only 8.35% had BRCA1 or BRCA2 variants, while a significantly larger proportion, 11.9%, had inherited pathogenic variants in genes belonging to the homologous recombination repair pathway. Overall, 67% of all positive findings occurred in non-BRCA genes, demonstrating that the inherited landscape of breast cancer risk in India is far more complex than previously appreciated.

The findings underscore the need to re-examine current genetic testing strategies in India, which heavily rely on BRCA-only, and to shift to broader multi-gene panel or exome-based germline testing.

Entry of women at Sabarimala: temple body opposes SC ruling

Resolution will serve as the basis for the affidavit Travancore Devaswom Board will file in the SC when judges meet on April 14 to review a 2018 order on women's entry, says its president

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) on Monday passed a resolution opposing the 2018 Supreme Court verdict permitting women of menstruating age to worship at the Sabarimala temple.

The TDB resolution has immense political ramifications, given the long-standing demand Hindu social organisations. FILE PHOTO

The resolution has immense political ramifications, given the long-standing demand of Hindu social organisations, chiefly the Nair Service Society (NSS), and the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam, that the government uphold Sabarimala customs, including the bar on women of childbearing age entering the temple.

TDB president K. Jayakumar said the resolution would serve as the basis for the affidavit the board would file with the Supreme Court when the judges meet on April 14 to review the order. He said the TDB's position was not new.

'Default legal position'

Mr. Jayakumar said that earlier board leaderships too had opposed women's entry in principle, but never adopted it as a resolution. "It's the TDB's default legal position. Protecting temple traditions is core to the TDB's constitution," he said.

Mr. Jayakumar said he could not comment on the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's position, given that such matters were the Cabinet's preserve. "When the Supreme Court reviews the subject, the TDB will submit its official position," he said.

Minutes later, Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan told reporters that the Cabinet would revisit the subject.

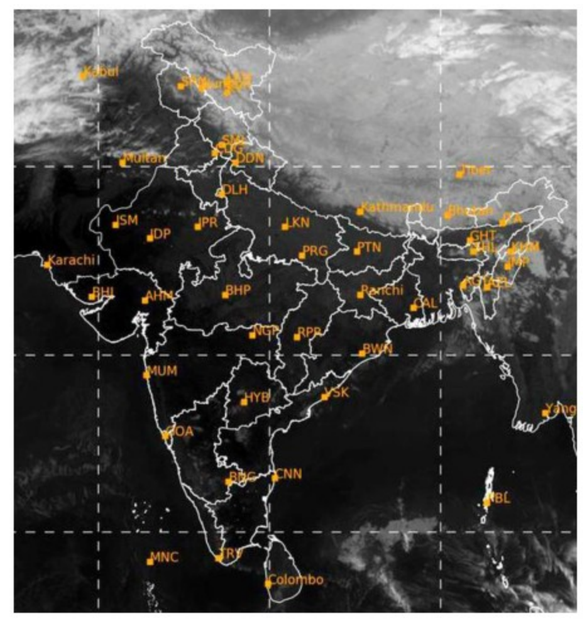
SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan welcomed the resolution, saying that it pointed towards a 'course correction.' Mr. Natesan claimed that he had opposed the Supreme Court judgment.

Last week, Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] State secretary M.V. Govindan hinted that the LDF government would protect the 'belief of the devotees,' signalling a marked shift from its 2019 position, which upheld the Supreme Court verdict.

Notably, NSS general secretary G. Sukumaran Nair had criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for failing to pass a Central law that would future-proof Sabarimala's religious practices and custom against legal challenges.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.0	23.4	Kozhikode	—	35.0	25.3
Ahmedabad	—	36.5	20.5	Kurnool	—	38.0	23.5
Aizawl	—	30.1	12.2	Lucknow	—	31.4	14.6
Allahabad	—	31.8	14.8	Madurai	—	36.0	20.8
Bengaluru	—	32.4	21.1	Mangaluru	—	32.8	22.9
Bhopal	—	32.8	15.0	Mumbai	—	31.1	19.9
Bhubaneswar	—	37.5	22.5	Mysuru	—	33.0	19.0
Chandigarh	—	29.5	13.0	New Delhi	—	30.9	15.1
Chennai	—	33.9	22.7	Patna	—	31.0	18.4
Coimbatore	—	35.0	21.1	Port Blair	—	30.7	23.5
Dehradun	—	30.0	11.7	Puducherry	—	31.3	23.2
Gangtok	26	14.5	9.9	Pune	—	36.4	19.4
Goa	—	31.9	22.0	Raipur	—	35.2	21.3
Guwahati	—	28.6	17.2	Ranchi	—	29.8	18.0
Hubballi	—	36.0	19.0	Shillong	—	20.8	9.1
Hyderabad	—	34.8	22.2	Shimla	—	21.6	11.0
Imphal	0.8	27.1	12.1	Srinagar	—	21.4	2.3
Jaipur	—	33.2	18.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.8	23.0
Kochi	—	30.4	25.2	Tiruchi	—	35.7	22.0
Kohima	—	20.6	9.3	Vijayawada	—	35.6	22.4
Kolkata	—	32.9	24.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.1	25.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.72	.63	.45	148	154	
Bengaluru	.17	.37	.39	194	163	
Chennai	6	.14	.50	106	107	
Delhi	.35	.70	117	205	300	
Hyderabad	7	.28	.21	124	114	
Kolkata	8	.55	.41	93	100	
Lucknow	8	.36	.58	187	153	
Mumbai	.91	.75	—	48	58	
Pune	—	111	.48	103	106	
Visakhapatnam	.52	.90	.21	109	157	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Cuttack, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 302 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Three spectators gored to death at bull chase event in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
SIVAGANGA

Three spectators were gored to death by raging bulls during the *manjuvirattu* (bull chase) event at Araliparai in Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu on Monday.

As more than 600 bulls, which were released, charged through the venue, men, women and children spectators perched atop nearby hillocks witnessed the yearly event.

The police said three spectators, including an ice cream vendor, a migrant worker, lost their lives, and 95 others were injured after being gored by the bulls.

The event was conducted as part of Bala Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple's Masi Magam festival

Manjuvirattu held in Sivaganga on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

celebrations. For over 200 years, the *manjuvirattu* is being organised on the 10th day of the festival.

A total of 128 bulls from Sivaganga, Dindigul, Theni, Pudukkottai, Madurai and Tiruchi districts were released from the *vadi-vasal* (entry point). More than 70 bull tamers participated in the event. Additionally, over 500 bulls were released in surrounding fields.

Fatal event

The event turned fatal when bulls gored three individuals who were identified as Sundararajan, 34, of Pudukkottai district, Ramanathan, 23, of Madurai district and Jamalal Ji, 55, of Rajasthan.

Further, 95 people were injured. Medical camps set up at the site provided initial treatment, while 18 individuals with severe injuries were rushed to Sivaganga and Singampunari government hospitals for advanced care.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(54E): 2025-26:JE-2 **Dated: 27.02.2026**

SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 32065 **under the Head of Account CMIDP.** The Last date for reciept of **tender: 16.03.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**

In the above work cost of estimate is Rs.300.00 Lakhs Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document KW-4. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1688/25-26 dt.02.03.2026 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3 (BSWML), #30/1, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
No.: BSWML/DGM-3/TEND/22/Corr-1/25-26 **Date: 02.03.2026**

CORRIGENDUM- 01

Sub: Extension of Calendar of Events for Tender.
Ref: This office Tender Notification No:DGM-3/(BSWML)/TEND/22/25-26. dt. 25.02.2026.

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above notification is extended as below due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

Time schedule/calendar of events:

Sl No	Description	As per tender notification	Extended dates to be read as
1	Last date of Submission of bids in KPP Portal	06.03.2026 before 16.00 hrs.	**07.03.2026 before 16.00 hrs.**
2	The Technical Bid Opening date in KPP Portal	07.03.2026 before 16.00 hrs.	**09.03.2026 after 12.30 hrs.**

For Further details visit GOK KPP Portal website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy General Manager -3, BSWML
DIPR/CP/5944/AAA/25-26

Government of Tamilnadu
PUBLIC (ELECTIONS-II) DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI - 600 009.
Tender No.5/2026/900 **TENDER NOTIFICATION**

e-Tenders are invited from reputed Companies / Agencies for rate contract of Live Webcasting in the Polling Stations on the day of Polling and Recording on the day of Counting for the General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, 2026 for a period of one year as per the guidelines/ instructions of the Election Commission of India. The details can be seen in the tender document which can be downloaded free of cost from the websites **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **www.elections.tn.gov.in**

1. Queries from the Companies/Agencies should be raised in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** by 05:00 P.M. on 06.03.2026. The reply to the queries of the Companies/Agencies shall be uploaded by this Department by 05:00 P.M on 09.03.2026 in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in.**
2. The last date for submission of tender document by e-Procurement module – 3.00 P.M. on 17.03.2026.
3. Technical Bids Opening to ascertain Number of bids received – 03:30 P.M. on 17.03.2026.
4. Detailed Technical Evaluation by the Tender Evaluation Committee – Will be decided later.
5. Financial Bid Opening - Those bidders who have technically qualified will be informed.
6. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):- Rs.1,20,00,000/- by online module.

For Contact: 044 – 25665327
DIPR/1493/Tender/2026
Additional Chief Electoral Officer & Additional Secretary to Government

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1&2/Tender/2025-26/427 Date: 27-02-2026

KPP -Procurement Tender Details

1) Name of Works : As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 4) Amount put to tender : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only: **11-03-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours**, 6) Pre-Bid meeting Place, date & time for KW-4 Only Office of the, Ex.Engr. MI & GWD Divn. Partapnagar, Naubad, Bidar on 09-03-2026 at 11:00 AM. 7) Last Date & Time for receipt of KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only: **13-03-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 8) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only : **16-03-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 9) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-2, KW-3& KW-4 Only: **18-03-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted : Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080, 11) Website details : KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer MI & GWD Division, Bidar
DIPR/Bidar/353/KSMC&A/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Sri. Lt. Col. Amitabh Thapliyal, son of Sri. Govind Prasad Thapliyal is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claims against to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, Joint Development Agreement, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 7 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **BDA Site bearing No. 645**, situated at Sir M Vishveshwaraya Layout Block III, Bangalore, measuring East to West 18 meters, North to South 12 meters totally measuring 216 Sq. meters and bounded on: East by: Road; West by: Site No.647; North by: Site No.644; South by: Site No.645/A

Dated this 3rd day of February 2026 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS
No. 428, 24th Main, 25th Cross, Sector – 2, H.S.R Layout, Bangalore – 560 102.
Phone: 080-65555914,
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

IN THE COURT OF THE XXX CITY CIVIL JUDGE & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
O S No. 9405 of 2018 (CCH-31)
BETWEEN: SMT. G. CHITRA POORNIMA
Daughter of Late M.R. Govindaraj Aged about 50 years Residing at No.339 Rainbow Drive Layout, Sarjapur, Bangalore-560035 **...PLAINTIFF**
AND: SRI. R. MUNIRAJU & ORS **DEFENDANTS**
Summons To Defendant No.8 Under Order 5 Rule 20 Of The Code Of Civil Procedure, 1908 By Way Of Paper Publication
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO.8
To, 08: SMT. G. PURNIMA, Aged about 65 years W/o Dr. V.N. Govindarajan Residing at No.15, 30th Cross, Tilaknagar, Bannnerghatta Layout, Bangalore-560 041 **...DEFENDANT NO.8**

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has instituted the above suit against you seeking declaratory and injunctive reliefs and arrayed you as Defendant No.8 to the suit. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed on the **18th day of March, 2026 at 11:00 AM** to show cause as to why the suit should not be decreed/allowed.

Take notice that in case of default, the suit will be heard and disposed of in your absence.

SCHEDULE:

All that piece and parcel of property, bearing Municipal **No. 100 (Old Nos. 88/9 and 88/10), Having PID No. 56-107-100, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 110 feet in all measuring 6600 sq. feet, situated at Yellappa Garden, Municipal ward No. 56, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru** & bounded on: **East by :** 30 feet road, **West by :** Private property, **North by :** Private property and; **South by :** 40 feet Road.

Schedule Property as Referred to by Defendant No.1 (Sri. R Muniraju)

All the piece and parcel of property bearing **No.10 in Katha No. 17 of Yellappa Garden, Katriguppe, BBMP Ward No.56, Banagiri Nagara, Vinayaka Temple Main Road, 2ndCross, Bengaluru, measuring East to West Northern side 60 feet on the Southern side 64 feet and North to South: 110 feet** bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by :** Private property, **North by:** Property of K.V. Jayapal, **South by :** Road.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 26 day of February 2026.

Advocate for Plaintiffs: CRESTLAW PARTNERS, Advocates and Solicitors, No. 33, I Cross, Victoria Road, Xavier's Layout Bangalore-47
By Order of the Court Senior Sheristedar (City Civil Court, Bangalore)

PUNJAB STATE BUS STANDS MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (PUNBUS)
(Website: https://punjabroadways.punjab.gov.in/en)

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby issued for Selection of a Testing Agency included in Rule 126 of Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 as a "Third Party Quality Certifying Agency" during Bus Body Fabrication of New 696 New (386 PUNBUS+ 309 PRTC) "Fully Built Ordinary Passenger Buses" to be procured by PUNBUS from Indian Chassis Manufacturers.

Proposal submission **On or before 16-03-2026 by 14:00 hrs**
Technical bid opening **16-03-2026 by 15:00 hrs**

The detailed terms & conditions are given in **LETTER OF INVITATION, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INSTRUCTIONS TO THIRD PARTY QUALITY CERTIFYING AGENCY** and these can be obtained from **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** with effect from **03-03-2026.**

2715/11/2025-26/9009 DEPOT MANAGER, PUNBUS, RUPNAGAR

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE (KSNDMC)
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru- 560 064. Ph.: 080-67355000
No. KSNDMC/ADM/MISC/50/2025-WFTG Date: 03.03.2026

EXTENSION Notification of Technical Director appointment for KSNDMC for 15 DAYS

Subject: The advertisement for appointment of Technical Director for KSNDMC under the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) for implementation of the World Bank funded Project is EXTENDED for 15 DAYS due to administrative issues

As a part of the World Bank funded Project being implemented by the SPMU, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), the Revenue Department is **EXTENDING** the seeking appointment of a Technical Director for KSNDMC due to administrative issues **for 15 days** to oversee the overall operations of the Karnataka Climate Hazard Risk Information System (KCHRIS) Platform. KSNDMC, an Autonomous body under Revenue Department (Disaster Management), Govt. of Karnataka is inviting Applications from eligible candidates for the post of Technical Director, KSNDMC. The remuneration for external candidates (who are not working in government sector) will be in the range of **Rs. 2.0 - 3.0 Lakhs.** Pay scales shall be protected to the eligible internal candidates (who are serving in the State/Central Government or State/Central Government Institutions/Universities) as per their existing pay structure, on a deputation basis. The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), eligibility criteria and other conditions for engaging as Technical Director at KSNDMC is available at KSNDMC Web portal **www.ksndmc.org.** The Applicants may note the following:

- Applications along with relevant supporting documents should be submitted through Registered Post / Courier or in Person, on or before **5.00 pm of 17th March, 2026.**
- **Applicants, those who have applied already need not apply again**
- Incomplete applications will not be considered and KSNDMC reserves the right to reject any application, without assigning any reason, whatsoever
- The qualified candidates will be shortlisted and called for Personal Interview for final selection to the post
- Applications to be sent through proper channel to **"The Office of Director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064"**
- For further Queries, you may contact the Administrative Officer at 9611990357

Sd/- M S Divakara, Director, KSNDMC

Government of Karnataka
Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010,
Tel : 0821-2424673/74, Fax No.0821-2424665,
Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in, https://nammakarnataka.in
Tender Notification Number: DAMH/CW/T-33/2025-26 Date: 26.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 02 works of **DAMH/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT-203 & 204** The amount of minimum Rs.**100.00 lakhs** as per the tender documents KW-3 & 02 Service tender **DAMH/2025-26/SE0003 & SE0045** under the standard tender documents. The Tender documents can be obtained through **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** e-portal from date **27.02.2026** onwards.

Last date and time of any Queries for tender	10.03.2026, 17.00 hrs
Last date and time of tender submission	16.03.2026, 16.00 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	18.03.2026, 16.30 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	20.03.2026, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, Mysore.
DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1767/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
National Health Mission
District Health and F.W. Society,
DISTRICT HEALTH AND F.W. OFFICE KALABURAGI
No:NRHM/RCHO/NOC/Klb/66/2025-26 Date: 02/03/2026

:: TENDER CALL-2 ::

1) Commodity: 22 Vehicles on the basis of outsource for the team of RBSK to the 7 taluka Health office . Under RBSK Programme. 4 Wheeler Vehicle (4+1 Seated Capacity & 2020 & above Model)-20 Vehicles and District Programme Manager -1 , City Programme Manager-1 (6+1 Seated Capacity 2023 & above Model) Called for Vehicle Tenders Services by registered Tours & Travels/ Vehicle owner/Agency for Providing Vehicles with Drivers
2) Approximate Amount: **As Per KPPP Portal,**
3) Details of Tender EMD : **Total 22 Vehicles: Tender Details (With Air condition).**

Programme	Rs. Per Month Per Vehicle	No. of Vehicles	No. of Months	Per Year Amount	EMD Amount Total Vehicle	EMD Per Vehicle
RBSK Vehicles	**35,000/-**	**20**	**12**	84,00,000/-	2,10,000/-	10500/-
DPM Vehicle	**40,000/-**	**1**	**12**	4,80,000/-	12000/-	12000/-
CPM Vehicle	**40,000/-**	**1**	**12**	4,80,000/-	12000/-	12000/-

4) Starting Date of Submission of Tender form: **02/03/2026 Afternoon 3:00**, 5) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time: **07/03/2026 Morning 11:00,** 6) Last Date of Submission of Tender form: **13/03/2026 Evening 4:30**, 7) Opening Date of Technical Bid: **16/03/2026 Morning 11:00,** 8) Opening Date of Financial Bid: **18/03/2026, Morning 11:00,** 9) Contact for More Details: Member Secretary, District Health & F.W Society, Kalaburagi PH.No 08472-278620.

Sd/- Member Secretary District Health & F.W Society, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1133/KSMC&A/2025-26

New reality

Fiscal targets will now be realigned based on more accurate data

The release of the new series of national accounts data is a heartening improvement to India's key economic statistics, but the data highlights some aspects that merit policy attention. The new series updates the base year of India's Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Added data to 2022-23 from the earlier 2011-12. This was a long-overdue update, since the earlier data was becoming more outdated and unrepresentative with each passing year. Apart from the updated base year, the new series has several methodological improvements and new data sources for greater robustness. For example, the adoption of the double-deflator approach, which accounts for the effect of inflation separately for intermediate goods and the final product, is a marked improvement in terms of ascertaining the real value added of India's production. Similarly, the new series allocates multi-sector company output proportionately, improving sectoral data accuracy. The data on households will now be obtained from the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) on an annual basis instead of relying on extrapolations as was done in the 2011-12 series. Notably, the Goods and Services Tax data, a goldmine of consumer data, will be used in the new series. The new series will also include new sources and methods of estimation for sectors that have historically been difficult to quantify such as the agricultural sector and the vast informal sector. All of these should yield a more accurate picture of India's economic size and growth.

The new series predicts India's GDP to grow 7.6% in the current financial year 2025-26, which is faster than the 7.4% predicted for the year in the old series. While the rate might bring cheer, the new absolute size of the economy is somewhat sobering. The new series pegs India's economy at ₹345.47 lakh crore in 2025-26, which is about 3.3% smaller than what was predicted based on the old series. The size of the economy in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 was also revised downward by 3.8% each. Along with the depreciation of the rupee, this has meant that India is currently a $3.8 trillion economy, with the $5 trillion target moving further away. A smaller economic size also means the Centre's various commitments to lower the fiscal deficit and debt – ratios that are pegged to nominal GDP – also become that much tougher to achieve. That said, it is better to realign targets based on more accurate data than to blithely forge ahead with decade-old metrics.

The waning sheen

The price relief provided by GST rationalisation may not last long

The February GST mop-up shows an impressive year-on-year rise of 8.1%, with gross collections touching about ₹1.83 lakh crore. Much of this has rightly been attributed to rising consumption expenditure after the GST framework was rationalised into a two-tiered rate structure of 5% and 18% in September 2025. The rate cuts made consumer non-durables cheaper, and helped sustained sales in automobiles, appliances, mobiles and tourism-linked services. Yet, a critical vulnerability has been largely overlooked – the not-so-trivial import IGST numbers, which saw a spike of over 17% this February compared with last year. This must be viewed from a holistic perspective to understand how it affects consumption, prices and the growing disparity in GST collections between States. Import IGST collections in February rose to roughly ₹47,800 crore, up from about ₹40,800 crore a year ago. A five-year comparison of February collections (FY22-FY26) shows a nearly 41% rise from ₹33,800 crore in February 2022. At the same time, the rupee has steadily weakened. The rupee fell about 4% against the dollar between February 2025 and February 2026, and roughly 6.2% from April 2025 to February 2026. This matters as key imports are largely dollar-denominated.

India imports over 90% of its semiconductor requirements and relies heavily on crude oil, copper and aluminium imports – which together made up about 35% of February 2026 merchandise imports. Crude oil accounts for over a quarter of total imports, while semiconductors contribute about 5%, and copper and aluminium together another 3%-4%. Import values for copper and aluminium have risen materially over the past year, reflecting price firming and volume increases. Semiconductor imports have also grown sharply, even as global shortages persist. Meanwhile, crude import reconfiguration – from discounted Russian barrels to the U.S. and West Asia – likely increased India's average import bill. Higher global prices combined with a weaker rupee mechanically inflate the assessable value on which IGST is levied. These rising input costs feed into vital sectors such as automobiles and appliances. There are also signs of unevenness across States. Major States such as Tamil Nadu (-6%), Maharashtra (6%) and West Bengal (1%) lagged the national growth rate of 8% in February. This divergence suggests that national GST buoyancy has been disproportionately supported by import-led revenues rather than uniformly strong domestic demand. Import IGST is now roughly 27% of gross GST collections in the April 2025-February 2026 period, up from about 24% in the previous year – underscoring a growing dependence on import-tax revenues. Higher input costs could nullify GST rationalisation price relief, leading to higher costs for consumers.

Israel, the U.S. and a war to build a unipolar West Asia

Stanly Johny

On February 27, Oman's Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, who was mediating talks between the United States and Iran, told an American channel that a deal was within reach. He said Iran had committed not to make a nuclear bomb "ever" and not to stockpile nuclear material. The next day, the U.S. and Israel began bombing Iran, killing its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and dozens of senior Iranian officials. Israel described the campaign as a "pre-emptive" war to remove "existential threats", while U.S. President Donald Trump urged Iranians to "take over your government," adding, "This will probably be your only chance for generations." It was clear from the way the initial decapitation strike was carried out and the remarks issued by Mr. Trump and Mr. Netanyahu, that what the invading bloc wanted was regime change.

The Iranian government, despite the initial blow, has reorganised itself and is hitting back. West Asia, as a result of the actions of Mr. Trump and Mr. Netanyahu, is witnessing one of its most perilous moments in the post-Second World War era – a conflict whose outcome will define the region for the decades to come.

After the 12-day war in June 2025, Mr. Trump announced that he had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear programme. Mr. Netanyahu declared a "historic victory". So, why did they start another war eight months later? Israel has always wanted regime change in Iran. For Tel Aviv, Iran is the only revisionist country that challenges its supremacy in West Asia. Arab countries, many of them hosting American bases or dependent on American aid, have either established direct ties with Israel or accepted to live with Israel's militarism and its occupation of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories. But Israel sees Iran, a country of 90 million people with enormous economic potential and an advanced missile programme, as an existential threat.

When then U.S. President Barack Obama signed the nuclear deal with Iran in 2015, his focus was on addressing Iran's nuclear programme. He believed that a non-nuclear Iran would be good news for West Asia, where a "cold peace" between Tehran and its adversaries would be established. But, Israel had a different understanding. Its problem was not merely Iran's nuclear programme but its conventional might. That is why Mr. Netanyahu opposed the 2015 deal with all his might.

Geopolitics of Iran

In recent times, when the U.S. and Iran were engaged in talks, Israel had repeatedly called for a deal to include Iran's missile programme and its support for non-state militias in the region. What Mr. Netanyahu wanted was a total disarmament of Iran – a demand no Iranian leader, except someone installed by Mr. Netanyahu in Tehran – can accept. A Tehran-based security analyst told *The Hindu* on February 24 in unmistakable terms that Iran would not sign a deal with the U.S. on its nuclear programme. He said, "If Iran agrees to surrender its ballistic missiles today to avert war with the U.S., Israel will bomb us anyway a few months down the line. So, the question Iranians ask themselves is why should they give up their last deterrent?"

The only way Israel could meet all its objectives was to bring about a regime change. Regime change would also be geopolitically rewarding. Saddam Hussein's Iraq is gone. Qadhafi's Libya is gone. Bashar al-Assad is in Moscow while a former jihadist is running Damascus. Hezbollah has been weakened. Hamas has been pushed to the ruins of Gaza. The Arab countries are unlikely to do anything other than issue condemnation letters. Iran is the last revisionist power standing. If the Islamic Republic is taken down, the regional balance of power would shift, setting the stage for a unipolar West Asia, with Israel, fully backed by Washington, at its centre. This is more about geopolitics and Israel's own interests than about giving freedom to the Iranians.

Decapitation strategy

But there is one problem. Iran, ring-fenced by tall mountains and roughly 70 times bigger than Israel, is a geographical fortress. Israel alone cannot bring about regime change. Typically, regime changes are achieved through a ground invasion – even then it is not guaranteed. Israel pulverised Gaza, a strip of land sandwiched between Israel and the Mediterranean Sea for 24 months and killed at least 70,000 of its people, but has still not unseated Hamas. No country, including the U.S., wants to send ground troops to Iran. If an Iraq-style ground invasion is not possible, the other options are Libya or Syria. But in Libya and Syria, there was armed opposition to the regime that led the battle on the ground.

In Libya, it took months-long bombing by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to topple Qadhafi's regime. In Syria, which fell into a disastrous civil war in 2012, it took 12 years for Mr. Assad to fall. In Iran, there is no organised armed opposition. So, what Israel tried to do in June 2025 and February 2026 was to carry out decapitation strikes – give a blow so heavy that the regime would not stand up and fight back.

In June 2025, the Iranians recovered from the initial shock fast and began hitting back. Mr. Netanyahu had said that regime change would be a desirable outcome of the war, but he had to ask for American help and then agree to a ceasefire after 12 days. In February 2026, backed by a more willing U.S., Israel has launched a much broader and more ambitious strike, killing Khamenei. Mr. Trump and Mr. Netanyahu want a quick, decisive victory. But if they thought the assassination of the "leader of the revolution" would lead to the crowds jamming the streets and taking over the institutions bringing down the regime, that has not happened – not as yet. Iran seems prepared for this moment, and is hitting back at American bases across the region, and Israel, widening the war.

This is a perilous conflict that is more about geopolitics and shaped by Tel Aviv's own interests

A regional war

During the 2025 June war, Iran's response was mainly focused on Israel. It launched a token strike on the U.S. base in Qatar following an American attack on its nuclear facilities and subsequently agreed to a ceasefire. But this time, Iran is hitting American bases across the Persian Gulf kingdoms and Israel. Iranian missiles and drones have targeted a military base in Cyprus and a French base in the United Arab Emirates. Iran has also announced the shutting of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea through which a third of the global energy supply flows. This is a risky gamble.

In two days, Iran has regionalised the war. This is the all-out war almost all critics of Mr. Trump's Iran policy had warned him about. The supporters of the war in Washington had said that Iran was bluffing. But it was not. If Iran continues to attack U.S. bases (some of them were hit hard) in the Gulf monarchies, these countries would be pressed to join the war. And if they do, the cross-Gulf conflict could have disastrous implications for energy trade, severely impacting the global economy. A prolonged conflict would also mean that the missile defence shields that are currently protecting these bases, Israel and other American assets in the region, would be exhausted.

This means that the clock is ticking fast for both sides. It is unclear whether Mr. Trump was prepared for a scenario in which the Iranian state survives the assault. Washington and Tel Aviv aim to destroy Iran's ballistic missile stockpiles and its launchers to blunt its firepower. But if Iran retains its strike capability and continues to widen the war, the pressure on Mr. Trump would intensify.

To be sure, there is a vast gap between the conventional strength of the U.S.-Israel alliance and that of Iran. Yet, conventional superiority alone does not guarantee victory, which depends on clearly defined and attainable objectives. If Mr. Trump seeks a swift and decisive triumph, Iran's doctrine is built precisely to deny it. Mr. Trump wants to kill the guerrilla because, as Henry Kissinger would agree, the guerrilla wins if he does not lose.

stanly.johny@thehindu.co.in

UGC reform debate, faultlines in politics of social justice

Harish S. Wankhede

is senior faculty at the Centre for Political Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Recent debates over proposed changes in regulations issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) have triggered wider political discussions on caste privileges, social discrimination and the idea of social justice in institutions of higher academics. A section of upper caste elites has opposed the UGC's regulations even as the higher judiciary quickly put the policy reform in abeyance. Media and social networks pushed for its annulment, calling the regulations discriminatory toward the social elites.

Though initiated by the Union government, the Bharatiya Janata Party has also hesitated to defend the UGC rules. This is only logical for the right-wing party to avoid upsetting its core political supporters, mainly the social elite. Yet, such distancing risks alienating Bahujan groups as they have joined the Hindutva bandwagon hoping to expand their representation in power and gain substantive social and class mobility. In the current debate, though Bahujan groups have remained fragmented and leaderless in promoting their interests, they have the potential to harm the electoral prospects of the right-wing party.

Inclusive subaltern Hindutva

The rise of Narendra Modi as the dominant leader in national politics has led to the social character of the BJP changing considerably. It was suggested that the BJP shift from its visible Brahmanical focus to bringing Dalit, Bahujan and Adivasi (DBA) groups into the party structure. The BJP's electoral success as a new 'Subaltern Hindutva' party is overly dependent upon the support of the DBA groups, while the social elites have remained its committed support base. The party's new social engineering also checkmates the 'official' parties of the Dalit-Bahujan castes, such as the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar. A sizable faction within the vulnerable castes (especially the lower Other Backward Classes, or OBCs) have trusted the BJP more for their welfare, hoping that an inclusive Hindutva platform would offer them social dignity and equitable participation in the power structures.

The BJP's 'inclusive Hindutva' faces challenges as the proposed changes in regulations issued by the University Grants Commission spark debate

The shift of certain DBA sections has made the BJP a formidable force. However, in return for their support these groups have only received some tokenistic presence in the power structures. Their class conditions remain precarious, and they often face discrimination and violence from dominant social groups. The lower OBC groups (mainly the artisanal castes, landless labourers and lower middle-class sections of the urban population) have negligible presence in modern state institutions and the urban market economy. Further, limited access to quality higher education keeps their presence in IT-related and other elite professions minimal.

The OBC question

After the release of the Bihar Caste Survey in 2023, a similar factsheet showed that almost 40% of the State's population is considered Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs), a majority of whom are landless or dependent on the rural economy and an education status that is similar to Dalits and Adivasis. It was expected that the ruling establishments, at the State and Centre, would take cognisance of the grave situation and formulate policy for their welfare. However, there was no such initiative.

It appears that the new UGC regulations were drafted to address the growing problems faced by OBC candidates in academic institutions. The Education Ministry faces constant criticism by the Opposition for failing to meet Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) and OBC quotas in central universities and premier institutes such as the IIMs, IITs, and AIIMS. The parliamentary report on the recruitment of professors in central universities has shown that OBCs constitute less than 3% of central university faculty. Importantly, they also face overt discrimination in the recruitment process (by using the 'not found suitable' rubric). Unlike SC/STs, OBC members have limited institutional support to protect them from caste-based discrimination on campuses.

In the new UGC regulations, the addition of OBCs and other vulnerable groups (like the EWS) alongside SC/STs is an acknowledgment that a vast section in university campuses survive as vulnerable social groups under the dominant presence of the social elites and, therefore, in need of legal safeguards. The new regulations appeared to be crucial corrective measures in making academic institutions more democratic, inclusive and responsible towards the agenda of social justice. However, the reforms have stalled following backlash, leaving the vulnerabilities that DBA groups face unaddressed.

The BJP's dilemma

The BJP's inclusive Hindutva has captivated sections among the DBA and has presented the party as a promising representative of Hindu unity. The UGC debate has challenged this celebrated idea, revealing that caste-based divisions occupy social space. The counter against the new UGC reforms has shown that the social elites have little concern for the inclusive welfare of marginalised social groups. As social justice policies reveal and disturb the control and hegemony of the traditional ruling elites, such attempts are targeted as anti-national, harmful to meritocracy or as an appeasement of identity politics.

The BJP has failed to convince social elite opponents about the political necessity of such a policy framework that would also ameliorate the deplorable conditions of DBA groups.

The uproar by a section of the social elites has become effective because of the BJP's tacit silence and hesitation to defend the policies of social justice. Such a nexus between the right-wing party and conservative social elites may have relegated the agenda of social justice to the periphery. But it also ignites a new consciousness among vulnerable social groups about their expendability within Hindutva politics, resulting in their exit from the right-wing party.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unjustifiable aggression

The Israel-United States war against Iran defies logic and is wholly indefensible. Only if the International Atomic Energy Agency had verified U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that Iran was close to developing nuclear weapons could the conflict even be remotely justified. The helplessness of the United Nations and the silence of world leaders on this aggression will only embolden Mr. Trump and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (Front page, "Iran hits Israel, U.S. bases after killing of Khamenei", March 2). Even Russian President Vladimir Putin's criticisms carry little weight, given his own record of unjustified wars. Must we console ourselves by claiming that economic might alone makes right?

Shriram Y.K.,
Bengaluru

At a time when the world speaks of peace and human welfare, we are witnessing a devastating war. At its heart, this is a human tragedy and the loss of innocent lives should concern us all.

Reports that children were killed in a school bombing must stir our conscience. Yet, while many nations express concern, there has been no firm condemnation or real commitment to protecting civilians. Public discussion remains fixated on military strategy — drones, missiles, and tactics — while the human cost is sidelined. Such a mindset will never advance world peace. Whatever the claims and counterclaims, we would do well to remember Nobel Peace Prize winner Ralph Bunche who said, "There are no warlike people, just warlike leaders." Bunche, incidentally, received the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for "his late 1940s work as a United Nations mediator in the Palestine conflict".

V. Nagarajan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Rethinking tax searches for the digital age

Tanessa Puri

Assistant Professor, Law of Taxation at Jindal Global Law School

The Supreme Court in *Vishwaprasad Alva vs Union of India* (2026) confronts a constitutional question transcending taxation: the lawful reach of sovereign power into the informational life of citizens. Section 132 of the Income Tax Act, historically authorising entry into premises and seizure of undisclosed assets, now has been extended to "computer systems" and "virtual digital space" such as smartphones, cloud accounts, and communication archives. A search architecture forged for cupboards and ledgers now claims access to devices that contain information beyond tax inquiries.

From the physical to the digital

The petitioner anchors the challenge in *Puttaswamy's* recognition of informational privacy as intrinsic to dignity. Digital devices differ qualitatively from ledgers. A phone contains years of intimate medical and professional confidences unrelated to tax liability. Unrestricted access converts a specific fiscal search into general exploratory intrusion, disproportionate to its aim. The anticipatory "reason to believe" embedded in Section 132 was historically tolerated against evasion but now authorises entry into entire informational ecosystems. Further, authorisation confined to the executive, and secrecy of recorded reasons impair meaningful review under Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to personal liberty). The ideas that survived scrutiny in the 1974 *Pooran Mal* judgment, which upheld the constitutionality of search and seizure provisions in the Income Tax Act, demand recalibration in the post-*Puttaswamy* order.

The Union's defence rests on settled doctrine sustaining Section 132 as a structured anti-evasion power. Section 132's authorisation rests on information and a recorded "reason to believe" by senior officers. Courts will review jurisdictional conditions only to ensure relevant material exists, as reaffirmed in *Laljibhai Mandalia* (2022). Technological expansion, it contends, does not alter this statutory discipline. Anticipatory search under clause (b) remains necessary against evasion's digital fragility: electronic devices may be erased, encrypted or transferred before summons operate. This makes *Pooran Mal* endure as an authority sustaining intrusive search for fiscal enforcement.

Proportional safeguards

The Bench's preliminary observations indicate that the dispute will not turn on the existence of search power but on its constitutional calibration in the digital domain. The Court has recognised that electronic devices may be destroyed if advance notice is given yet has also acknowledged that anticipatory searches under clauses (b) and (c) demand a higher degree of satisfaction and scrutiny. The central question is thus whether a framework designed for physical documents can adequately regulate devices containing the informational totality of an individual's affairs.

A single device contains vast historical data, reveals networks of third-party interactions, preserves years of behaviour, and can be copied in its entirety. The constitutional implications of such digital informational access are correspondingly amplified. While revenue enforcement remains a legitimate and vital state function, its methods must remain proportionate to the liberty of the interests they affect. As investigative capacity expands into the digital space, the safeguards governing that capacity must expand in equal measure.

If digital search powers are to remain constitutionally valid, their exercise must satisfy demonstrable constraints reflecting informational privacy doctrines. A constitutionally calibrated digital tax search should therefore be governed by the following criteria: firstly, particularised scope, where authorisation should specify the digital accounts, devices or data categories reasonably connected to the tax inquiry, preventing exploratory access to unrelated personal material; second, a necessity threshold, wherein digital search should be invoked only where less intrusive statutory measures are inadequate or likely to fail; third, a temporal and subject limitation where the examination of data should be confined to relevant periods and subject matter linked to the investigation; fourth, ensuring that mechanisms exist to segregate legally privileged or unrelated third-party communications from investigative review; and finally, making sure that search processes are recorded and reviewable in order to prevent misuse.

Such criteria do not disable enforcement; they only work to align its exercise with constitutional proportionality.

A constitutional balance

The case thus presents a classic constitutional recalibration where we need to adapt inherited statutory power to transformed technological realities. The Court may uphold the statutory scheme while reading in digital safeguards or require greater transparency in authorisation. What it cannot ignore is that digital searches implicate a deeper intrusion than their physical predecessors.

The challenge in *Vishwaprasad Alva*, therefore marks a constitutional moment in India's fiscal jurisprudence – the transition of tax searches from the spatial to the digital. Whether existing doctrine suffices for that transition or must evolve to preserve the balance between revenue and liberty, will shape the future architecture of state power in the information age. The legitimacy of fiscal authority ultimately rests not only on its capacity to detect evasion, but on the restraint with which it enters the citizen's digital personhood.

While revenue enforcement remains a legitimate and vital state function, its methods must remain proportionate to the liberty of the interests they affect

Questions for the church and the State

The Justice J.B. Koshy report reveals cracks in Kerala's social justice programme

STATE OF PLAY

Tiki Rajwi
tiki.rajwi@thehindu.co.in

The publication of the report of the Justice (Retd) J.B. Koshy Commission on Christian Minorities has put the spotlight on reservation, caste and conversion in Kerala. The 357-page report is now available to the public in full after the State Cabinet accepted it in principle on February 24. Among other things, the report recommends that the Christian community be accorded minority benefits proportionate to their share in the State's population. The three-member panel led by Mr. Koshy, a former Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, had submitted its report in May 2023 and ever since, the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had been under pressure from Christian denominations to publish it and implement the recommendations. Now, with State elections right around the corner, the report is sure to ignite serious debate in Kerala.

Forming the committee

The Kerala government had constituted the J.B Koshy Commission in 2020 after various groups, including the Syro-Malabar Church, complained that the Christian community faced discrimination among Kerala's minorities. The Muslim and Christian communities are formidable minorities among the numerically stronger Hindus in Kerala. Over the decades, the Christian community has played an exceptional role in developing the educational, economic and socio-political fabric of Kerala. However, more recently, the community has felt that it has been increasingly short-changed by political and government policies, especially those dealing with representation, reservations and minority welfare benefits. Dwindling numbers (the report places the share of Christians in the State population at 19.05% in 2001 and 14.28% in 2019); increasing migration; and growing ecological problems in Kerala's eastern hill regions and the western coastline, two of the traditional strongholds of Christians, add to the community's concerns.

Through its recommendations, the Commission has sought to address the concerns of the Christian community in general (related to education and employment), as well as specific issues faced by its backward, numerically-smaller and less-privileged sections such as the Scheduled Caste Converts to Christianity (SCCC), the Latin Catholics and the Anglo Indians. The Commission's observation on Dalit Christians (SCCC) is especially noteworthy: "As far as the SCCC Christians are concerned, their situation is far more dismal than the Scheduled Castes before their conversion." It notes that their former social infirmities have persisted even after converting to Christianity. These observations place not just modern-day Kerala society, which takes pride in its social reformation movement, in the dock, but the church as well.

The standing of the church

Underprivileged sections of the Hindu community had opted for Christianity in the 19th and 20th centuries to escape entrenched casteist aggression, oppression and social discrimination. However, conversion disqualified the SCCCs from SC reservation benefits. The report recommends that, in the interests of natural justice, the SCCC sections too be made eligible for the same benefits. The Commission's observations rekindle the debate whether conversion erases caste or not. Furthermore, they point to the realities of the seemingly invisible social stratas that persist among Christians in Kerala, whose traditions hark back to the Apostle St. Thomas and the much later Portuguese and British arrivals.

Many of the recommendations underline the need for a fair distribution of minority benefits. In its report, the Commission mentions complaints lodged before it questioning the 'skewed' deployment of reservation and welfare measures and the need for fair treatment for the Christian community in this regard. It remains to be seen how the Kerala government approaches these concerns. Announcing the publication of the report, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had stated that some of the recommendations have already been implemented, but the ones that require deeper study or legislative amendments remain. Such issues demand sensitivity, diplomacy and balanced strategies that look beyond caste or religion-centric politics. They can scarcely be treated in isolation, given the distinctive, interwoven nature of Kerala's social milieu.

How Dalit voting patterns have changed across elections

Post the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Dalit voters have increasingly been consolidated by the BJP, away from the Congress

DATA POINT

Sanjay Kumar
Vibha Attri

Hindu Dalit voters have long been an important vote bank in Indian elections, shaping party strategies, coalitions, and welfare policies. Their choices influence the outcomes of both national and State level elections, yet their political alignment remains fluid. An analysis of Lok Sabha elections from 1996 to 2024, alongside recent State Assembly trends, reveal shifting loyalties, regional variation, and emerging competition.

In the 1990s, the Congress held a clear advantage among Hindu Dalits (Table 1). In 1996, it secured 34% of the vote, compared to 14% for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This lead continued in 1998 and 1999, with Congress and its allies ahead of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The gap narrowed in the 2000s but remained in the Congress's favour.

A decisive shift was noticeable during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, when the BJP doubled its standalone share from 12% to 24%, and the NDA rose from 15% to 30%, overtaking the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), which declined to 20%. By 2019, the NDA had consolidated its Dalit support base further, reaching 41%. In 2024, the NDA slipped slightly to 36%, while the Congress-led INDIA bloc climbed to 32%, narrowing the gap. However, State-level patterns remained uneven. In the analysis that follows, BJP and Congress are used throughout but it implies support either for the party alone or the party plus its alliance – depending on how they contested (Table 2).

In Bihar, the BJP's support among Dalits surged in 2019 before declining in 2024, while the Congress rebounded over the same period. In Uttar Pradesh, support among the Dalits stayed relatively stable for the BJP, but the Congress made notable gains by 2024. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan saw closely fought contests, with leads alternating between the BJP and the Congress across elections. Haryana, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand moved markedly towards the Congress in the most recent elections. In West Bengal, the BJP's 2019 gains were partly reversed by 2024, whereas Congress support declined sharply. In the south, Congress expanded in Karnataka and Telangana, indicating that Dalit voting patterns are shaped more by State dynamics.

State-level election patterns

Dalit voting in State Assembly elections often diverges from national trends. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP consolidated support after 2017, aided by the Bahujan Samaj Party's decline, while the Congress remained far behind (Table 3).

Haryana witnessed swings: the Congress led in 2014, but by 2024, the BJP made gains, though the Congress retained a slight edge. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan remained favourable to the Congress, with the BJP trailing modestly. In Chhattisgarh, Dalit vote leaned towards the Congress, though the BJP strengthened its position in 2023. In Gujarat, the Congress led in 2017 but lost ground to the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) by 2022. Southern States highlight the role of regional dynamics: the Congress expanded Dalit support in Karnataka from 51% in 2018 to 63% in 2023, while the BJP declined slightly. In Telangana, Congress gained, though the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) retained a significant share of Dalit votes. Overall, Dalit voting has shifted from Congress dominance to increasing BJP consolidation. By 2024, no party commands unchallenged support. State-level alliances continue to shape outcomes alongside national trends.

Sanjay Kumar is a professor and political analyst. Vibha Attri is a researcher with the Lokniti-CSDS. Views expressed are personal.

Shifting patterns

The data for the tables were sourced from various Lok Sabha and State Assembly election studies conducted by the Lokniti-CSDS

The figures for all the tables are in %

TABLE 1: Hindu Dalit votes for BJP and Congress in Lok Sabha elections

Lok Sabha Elections	BJP	BJP allies	NDA	Congress	Congress allies	UPA/ INDIA
1996	14	1	15	34	-	34
1998	14	7	21	28	1	29
1999	14	11	25	30	5	35
2004	12	12	24	26	9	35
2009	12	3	15	27	7	34
2014	24	6	30	19	1	20
2019	34	7	41	20	6	26
2024	31	5	36	19	13	32

TABLE 2: State-wise Hindu Dalit votes for BJP and Congress in LS polls

	BJP/NDA			Congress/UPA/INDIA		
	2014	2019	2024	2014	2019	2024
Bihar	43	86	60	11	5	40
Uttar Pradesh	23	27	25	2	3	38
M.P.	43	38	53	42	50	36
Rajasthan	44	43	37	44	51	46
Chhattisgarh	38	61	58	42	27	42
Gujarat	35	28	54	50	66	46
Haryana	19	51	25	39	25	67
Delhi	32	43	49	18	20	48
Himachal	31	65	31	63	32	64
Jharkhand	37	50	29	10	41	69
Uttarakhand	42	44	34	33	53	64
Assam	84	51	69	16	7	11
West Bengal	22	61	48	8	4	2
Odisha	17	35	46	42	8	16
Karnataka	37	44	31	42	47	66
Telangana	20	6	24	20	36	45

Other parties who received significant Dalit votes, but not included in the table are: Bihar-JD(U) (20% in 2014), Haryana-INLD (17% in 2014); Delhi-AAP (42% in 2014, 22% in 2019); Jharkhand-JVM (24% in 2014), Odisha-BJD(38% in 2014, 53% in 2019, 38% in 2024), Uttar Pradesh-SP (6% and BSP- 62% in 2014, SP+BSP+RLD-62% in 2019), West Bengal-AITC (41% in 2014, 27% in 2019, 39% in 2024), Left Front (26% in 2014, 6% in 2019, 9% in 2024), Telangana-TRS (30% in 2014, 51% in 2019, and BRS-21% in 2024)

TABLE 3: Hindu Dalit voting patterns in the last two State Assembly elections. Figures in %

	Year of Election	BJP/ NDA	Congress/ INDIA/MGB
Bihar	2020	33	33
	2025	60	28
Uttar Pradesh	2017	21	8
	2022	28	2
Madhya Pradesh	2018	34	48
	2023	33	46
Rajasthan	2018	34	38
	2023	33	48
Gujarat	2017	50	53
	2022	44	32
Chhattisgarh	2018	25	42
	2023	39	48
Haryana	2014	20	27
	2024	40	42
Delhi	2020	26	5
	2025	35	5
Himachal Pradesh	2017	47	48
	2022	34	53
Jharkhand	2019	35	36
	2024	39	39
Uttarakhand	2017	37	23
	2022	26	47
Assam	2016	70	19
	2021	72	14
West Bengal	2016	11	43
	2021	55	8
Karnataka	2018	27	51
	2023	23	63
Telangana	2018	4	28
	2023	8	38

The table does not include parties, from other alliances than the ones mentioned above, even if they received significant votes in the elections

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 3, 1976

Quick mail service between Delhi and more cities

New Delhi, March 2: Quick Mail Service (QMS) facility will be extended between Delhi and 16 more cities which are accessible by air. They are: Visakapatnam, Madurai, Tiruchi, Mangalore, Cochin, Aurangabad, Baroda, Indore, Udaipur, Amritsar, Jammu, Kanpur, Ranchi, Silliguri, Bagdora and Silchar.

This was announced by Dr. S.D. Sharma, Minister for Communications, at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of MPs of his Ministry, here to-day.

Dr. Sharma said by March 31, eighty per cent of the villages in the country would have the daily delivery of the dak. Already over four lakh villages had the facility.

All villages in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala now had daily dak delivery. This had been done more by restructuring of the routes than by increasing the cost of operation.

The committee was informed that all State capitals would be linked to Delhi on STD before December 31 except those of Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura, which would have a "no delay service" to start with.

The Minister told Mr. T. D. Kamble (Cong.), it was proposed to introduce no-delay services from all district headquarters to the State capitals. He told Miss Maniben Patel (Cong-O) that special attempts were being made to improve the working of telex. Steps were being taken to popularise the PIN code.

Dr. Sharma informed Mr. Ramachandra Kadannappalli (Cong.) that Trivandrum would be connected to Delhi on STD on March 10 as part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the telephone service. Another capital, Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat) would also be connected to Delhi that day. Fourteen more STD routes were being added by the end of this month.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 3, 1926

Britain's gold position

London, March 2: Replying in the Commons to a question with regard to Britain's present gold reserves and the export of gold since restrictions were removed, Mr. McNeil said that gold coin and bullion in the issue department of the Bank of England on 24th February was 143, 186 thousand sterling which was a net reduction 10-720 thousand since 29th April.

From Page One

West Asia war escalates, spikes oil, strands flyers

The intensity of the attacks, the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the lack of any apparent exit plan indicated the conflict would not end anytime soon even as U.S. allies pledged to help stop Iranian missiles and drones. Iran media reported that the wife of the slain Supreme Leader died on Monday after succumbing to wounds sustained during the attack. Mansoureh Khojasteh Bagherzadeh, 79, had been in a coma since strikes on Saturday killed Khamenei, the *Tasnim* news agency said.

The "big wave" is yet to come in the war with Iran, U.S. President Donald Trump told *CNN* on Monday. Iran has long threatened, if attacked, to drag the region into total war, targeting Israel, the Gulf Arab states, and the flow of crude oil crucial for global energy markets. All of these came under attack on Monday, even as Israel and the U.S. bombed Iranian missile sites and targeted its Navy, claiming to have destroyed its headquarters and multiple warships. Iran also accused Israel and the U.S. on Monday of having attacked its nuclear facility at Natanz, one of the main targets of the previous conflict between them last June.

Kuwait's Health Ministry said a strike killed one person. Bahrain's Interior Ministry said a post-strike fire killed an Asian worker. The UAE had reported deaths of three foreign nationals .
(With Inputs from AFP)

India, Canada ink deal on uranium

On Friday, Mr. Carney, who spent the weekend in Mumbai, issued a statement supporting the U.S.'s strikes on Iran.

Mr. Carney is the first Canadian Prime Minister to make a bilateral visit to India since his predecessor Justin Trudeau visited India in 2018, and then in 2023 to attend the G-20 summit. Both visits were fraught with tensions, especially over New Delhi's concerns that the Canadian government is harbouring violent anti-India groups, including Khalistani leaders, and Ottawa's accusations that Indian government officials are involved in "transnational repression" of these groups.

In a joint statement issued on Monday, India and Canada agreed to strengthen security cooperation in a number of areas, including addressing "violent extremism, terrorism, organised crime".

On Monday, *The Globe and Mail*, a Canadian newspaper, quoted official sources saying that the Canadian Security Intelligence Services had "evidence" pointing to the involvement of two Indian officials at the Indian consulate in Vancouver in the Nijjar killing case, set to go to trial this year.

When asked about the reports, Ministry of External Affairs Secretary P. Kumaran said India continues to reject all such charges.

Russian oil imports at 44-month low in Jan.

Even as it lowered oil supplies from Russia, India either retained supply levels from the Gulf countries or has increased them. About 16.6% of India's oil imports in January 2026 came from Iraq, about the same level as a year earlier.

The UAE accounted for another 10.4% of India's oil imports in January 2026. Saudi Arabia saw its share of Indian oil imports jump to 17.5% in January 2026, the highest it has been since April 2023. Kuwait's share grew to 6.1%, the highest since February 2023.

However, with Iran having closed the crucial Strait of Hormuz following the conflict in West Asia, supplies of oil from all of these countries are at risk.

Multiple events over the last week could render the move to reduce Russian supplies costly for India. The trade deal with the U.S. is in limbo following the U.S. Supreme Court's February 20 decision striking down that country's reciprocal tariffs. Further, oil supplies from the Gulf and the U.S. are currently at risk following the conflict with Iran.

Notably, on February 6, U.S. President Donald Trump lowered tariffs on Indian imports from 50% to 25%. He said this relaxation was because "India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil, [and] has represented that it will purchase United States energy products from the United States".

IIP growth in January slows down to 4.8%

The mining sector saw growth slow to 4.3% in January, after accelerating in the previous two months. The electricity sector, too, saw growth slowing to 5.1% in January, down from 6.9% in December 2025. This was, however, faster than the 2.4% growth seen in the same month of last year.

The capital goods sector continued decelerating, with growth coming in at 4.3% in January, the second consecutive month of slowing growth. Growth had been 10.1% two months earlier.

The consumer durables goods sector saw growth slow to 6.3% in January, down sharply from the 12.4% in December. The consumer non-durables sector contracted 2.7% in January, down from a growth of 8.5% in the previous month.

Modi speaks to Saudi Crown Prince, Jordan, Bahrain Kings

He thanks them for looking after well-being of the Indian community in these countries; calls for earliest restoration of regional peace and stability; condemns attack on Saudi Arabia and Bahrain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Smoke billows from Saudi Aramco's Ras Tanura oil refinery after a reported Iranian drone strike. REUTERS

Against the backdrop of the widening conflict in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to the King of Bahrain, Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman.

The Prime Minister also spoke to King Abdullah II of Jordan and conveyed deep concern at the evolving situation in the region.

"India condemns the recent attacks on Saudi Arabia in violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. We agreed that earliest restoration of regional peace and stability is of utmost importance," Mr. Modi said after his conversation with the Crown Prince.

"I thanked him for looking after the well-being of the Indian community in these difficult times," Mr. Modi said.

In another post, the Prime Minister said he had a "productive telephone conversation with the King of Bahrain". Mr. Modi thanked him for the "steadfast support extended to the Indian community in Bahrain".

"India condemns the attacks on Bahrain and stands in solidarity with its people in this difficult hour," Mr. Modi said.

About his telephonic conversation with the King of Jordan, Mr. Modi said in a post on X: "We reaffirm our support for peace, security and the well-being of the people of Jordan. I thanked him for taking care of the Indian community in Jordan in this difficult hour."

The conversations came even as the first Indian casualty of the U.S.-Israel versus Iran conflict was confirmed by the Indian Embassy in Oman. The embassy announced that an Indian sailor aboard oil tanker *MKD Vyom* had died.

"The Embassy is in close coordination with the local authorities in Oman to facilitate the safe and early repatriation of our nationals on board the vessel. We remain committed to extending all possible assistance in this matter," said the Indian Embassy.

Omani officials had announced on Monday afternoon that *MKD Vyom* had been hit by an explosive-laden boat.

CCS meeting

Late on Sunday evening, Mr. Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), the country's highest decision-making body on security and strategic affairs.

The meeting reviewed the conflict in West Asia and its implications for India.

The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

IndiGo to fly 10 relief flights from Saudi for stranded passengers

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India Express will resume Muscat flights on Tuesday. AFP

Amid continued flight disruptions to the Gulf region, IndiGo will operate 10 special relief flights from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to India on Tuesday to facilitate the return of stranded passengers, according to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Air India Express will also resume services to Muscat, Oman, operating six flights from various Indian cities.

The United Arab Emirates' civil aviation regulator also announced "exceptional flights" from Monday evening, prompting Dubai and Abu Dhabi-based airlines to restart a limited number of flights.

"Special arrangements are being made to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers. Airlines are deploying additional capacity where required and coordinating closely with foreign aviation authorities and Indian missions abroad to ensure safe and orderly passenger movement," the Ministry said after a review meeting chaired by Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu. Air India Express will resume flights to and from Muscat starting Tuesday, with scheduled services to Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai and Tiruchirappalli. However, its operations to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE will remain suspended until 11:59 p.m. IST today.

Indian airlines cancelled 357 flights to the Gulf region on Monday, following 350 cancellations on Sunday. Foreign carriers operating between India and the Gulf were also expected to conduct limited services.

Air India said it was extending the suspension of its West Asia services till Tuesday midnight, but it resumed most of its European operations and all flights to the United States and Canada from Monday.

Attack on tankers amid escalating Israel-Iran war raises alarm over Indian seafarers' safety

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cannon fodder: Oil tanker *Skylight* engulfed in flames after being struck off the Musandam Peninsula of Oman, on Monday. AFP

The attack on *Skylight*, a tanker with 15 Indian and five Iranian seafarers on board, has brought to the fore the risks to Indian seafarers serving on ships on the Persian Gulf route as well as those flagged as shadow fleet by the U.S.

Three ships have been reported to have been attacked so far since the latest round of hostilities began. One Indian national was reportedly killed in one such attack on a tanker by an unmanned explosives-laden boat off the coast of Muscat Governorate on Monday. Ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has ground to a halt on March 1, while the previous day, some 60 to 70 ships had transited.

Oman's Maritime Security Center said *Skylight* was attacked around five nautical miles north of the port of Khasab in the Musandam governorate, according to Oman news agency.

The entire crew of 20 individuals, comprising 15 Indian nationals and five Iranians, have been safely evacuated, it said. Four crew members sustained injuries of varying degrees and have been given medical care.

Oman's Ministry of Defence said in a statement, "The Maritime Security Centre reported that the oil tanker MKD VYOM was attacked by an unmanned boat 52 nautical miles off the coast of Muscat Governorate." It said that the attack resulted in a fire and explosion in the engine room and the death of one crew member. The remaining 21 crew members were evacuated. The Ministry did not identify the nationality of the deceased, but local media reported that the victim was an Indian crew member.

Troubled waters

Skylight was included on the U.S. government sanctions list in December of 2025. Sanctions typically lead to companies being unable to do financial transactions or even do business, leading to wages of seafarers not being paid. It leads to much distress among seafarers, even abandonment of ships. Repatriation of seafarers to their home nations becomes a problem too.

International Federation of Transport Workers (ITF) data shows that 6,223 seafarers were abandoned across 410 ships in 2025. In terms of nationality, India had the most abandoned seafarers with 1,125, followed by the Philippines (539), Syria (309), Indonesia (274) and Ukraine (248).

An analysis of Lloyd's List Intelligence data alongside the ITF shows that the majority of abandonments on tankers and LPG carriers in 2025 occurred on shadow fleet vessels, says Joshua Minchin, senior reporter with Lloyd's List Intelligence.

An ITF spokesperson said, "Indian seafarers represent a significant proportion of the world's seafarers working in the merchant fleet, and all efforts must always be undertaken to ensure that they are never placed in harm's way – the ITF and its affiliate unions are working around the clock to verify the safety and security of all the seafarers we collectively represent."

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Shipping of India has issued strict advisories restricting Indian seafarers from joining or being put on work in ships in Iran. Manning companies are prohibited from recruiting and sending Indian seafarers to Iran, while extreme caution is advised for joining any vessel scheduled to transit through Strait of Hormuz.

Anil Devli, CEO of the Indian National Shipowners' Association, said that there are 27 Indian flag ships in the region with a majority of them in the Persian Gulf and some in Gulf of Aden. Many of the Indian tankers caught in the region are laden with crude oil or LPG and the rest are waiting to load the energy imports of India, which are crucial for the country. Mr. Devli requested the government to use its good offices to Iran and Israel to ensure safe movement of Indian flag ships.
(With inputs from PTI)

AI summit protest: HC grants relief to YC chief

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday set aside the stay imposed on bail granted to Indian Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib in connection with the February 20 "shirts off" protest at the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi.

Duty Magistrate Vanshika Mehta of the Patiala House Court had granted bail to Mr. Chib during an early morning hearing on Saturday, citing that the protest was an instance of "political dissent" and bore no proximity to "recidivist violence" or "organised crime".

However, after the Delhi Police challenged the magistrate's order, Additional Sessions Judge Amit Bansal stayed the bail hours later.

On Monday, Justice Saurabh Banerjee of the Delhi High Court granted relief to Mr. Chib, noting that the sessions court stayed the bail "without application of mind" and "without giving any reasoning".

Khamenei killing: protests rock J&K for a second day

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Amid tight restrictions on protests across Kashmir, security personnel stand guard in Srinagar on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

Security forces on Monday barricaded Srinagar's Lal Chowk, where hundreds held anti-U.S. and -Israel demonstrations on Sunday over the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei. Security was tightened after J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha held a meeting with security officials on Sunday.

To prevent rallies, forces put tin sheets and laid concertina wires on roads. They parked vehicles at many places and other restrictions were imposed in parts of the Kashmir valley.

In spite of all this, protesters hit the streets in many areas and security forces lobbed teargas shells against them, locals said. The J&K Police has not issued any statement on restrictions or on use of force against protesters.

All educational institutes remained shut in Kashmir. Varsities cancelled exams. Residents alleged Internet was slow in many areas. Most markets and private offices remained closed following the shutdown call issued by the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama, an amalgam of Islamic bodies headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Several parties, including the ruling National Conference, condemned the restrictions. "..grief is not unrest..," NC leader Tanvir Sadiq said.

Indian warships on standby for humanitarian operations

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Ready to assist: *INS Surat*, as part of a regional maritime security engagement, is currently in Bahrain. @INDIANNAVY X

India is closely monitoring the evolving security situation in parts of West Asia following the recent escalation of tensions, with Indian Navy ships deployed in the region under Operation Sankalp placed on standby for possible humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

A senior defence official on Monday confirmed that developments are being tracked closely and updates are being shared with the concerned departments for further direction.

"Under Operation Sankalp, two Indian Navy ships [a frigate and a destroyer] are already deployed in the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Oman. They have been deployed for anti-piracy operations and the safety of merchant vessels since 2019. If required, these ships could be utilised for HADR operations. The Navy has prior experience in such missions," the official said.

The deployment under Operation Sankalp was initiated to safeguard Indian-flagged vessels and ensure maritime security in the region amid rising threats to commercial shipping.

The official also stated that *INS Surat* is currently in Bahrain as part of a regional maritime security engagement.

Shah promises Seventh Pay Commission to West Bengal govt. employees

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Poll promise: Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaking during the *Parivartan Yatra* in Mathurapur, West Bengal on Monday. ANI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday promised West Bengal government employees that the Seventh Pay Commission would be implemented in the State if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was voted to power in the coming Assembly election.

Mr. Shah, who flagged off his party's *Parivartan Yatra* (Rally for change) from Magrahat in South 24 Parganas, said the Seventh Pay Commission would be implemented within 45 days of the BJP coming to power. "If all of you form a government of West Bengal under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), we will start paying salaries as per the Seventh Pay Commission within just 45 days," he said.

The remark assumes significance as the government employees are embroiled in a legal battle with the State government over the payment of dearness allowance (DA).

Mr. Shah said the youth had suffered due to the corruption of the Trinamool Congress government in providing jobs. He promised that after the BJP government is formed, the youth would get a five-year relaxation in the upper age limit for jobs. He said the objective of the yatra was not merely to remove the Chief Minister, but also to free the State from infiltration, corruption, and syndicate raj. "If you vote for the Trinamool again, *Bhaipo* (nephew) will rule here, not Mamata *didi*," he said.

Dynasty politics

Targeting the Trinamool Congress government over dynasty politics, Mr. Shah said the aim of "Mamata Banerjee is not the welfare of the people of Bengal... she wants to do good to Abhishek Banerjee".

"She wants to make Abhishek Banerjee the Chief Minister," he said. Mr. Shah said the youth of West Bengal could not get space in a party like the Trinamool Congress and the "BJP is the only party that does not do politics for the family".

Referring to the scams that have surfaced during the 15 years of the Trinamool Congress government, he touched upon the nomination of Rajeev Kumar, the former Director-General of the West Bengal Police, to the Rajya Sabha. Mr. Shah said the DGP, who had helped the Trinamool Congress cover up several scams, had now been nominated by the party to the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Shah said that while Ms. Banerjee had had a change of heart and was constructing temples in the State, a "Babri Masjid" was also being constructed in the State under her watch to appease a vote bank. He said the Babri Masjid was a result of a conspiracy between Ms. Banerjee and Humayun Kabir, the suspended Trinamool legislator who has now floated a new party.

Protests over deletion of names from final voter list in Bengal

Officials say over 60 lakh voters in the State remain 'under adjudication' before 501 judicial officers; Mamata Banerjee may hold a protest rally on Friday; Central forces start arriving as State Chief Electoral Officer reviews preparedness for election

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Voicing concerns: West Bengal Congress president Subhankar Sarkar staging a protest in front of the Chief Electoral Officer's office in Kolkata on Monday against the alleged discrepancies in the SIR. PTI

Sporadic protests over the alleged wrongful deletion of names from the electoral rolls erupted across parts of West Bengal on Monday, two days after the publication of the final rolls. Meanwhile, Central forces began arriving in the State, and the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) reviewed the State's preparedness for the Assembly election.

On Monday, residents of Manicktala in north Kolkata staged a protest, alleging that at least 270 names were deleted from the voter list in a single neighbourhood. They expressed concern about losing their voting rights.

"Every single member of our family has been removed from the voter list, though all of us attended the hearing," a woman (name withheld for privacy) from a family of three said.

The booth-level officer (BLO) of the area confirmed that all 270 individuals had appeared for the special intensive revision hearing.

A BLO from Ward No. 7 of the Kamarhati Municipality, Mohammad Tahir, who was in his 50s, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday. His name had been marked as "under adjudication" in the final voter list. Family members alleged that he had been under mental distress following this development. Aggrieved neighbours gathered outside his house in solidarity.

Roads blocked

At Gaighata in North 24 Parganas, a Matua-dominated area, protests erupted on Sunday, with demonstrators blocking roads and burning tyres over the alleged deletion of names.

Officials said over 60 lakh voters in the State remain "under adjudication" (a category of voters whose citizenship or inclusion in the voter list is currently being reviewed by election authorities) before 501 judicial officers.

Their inclusion in the electoral roll will be confirmed only after the publication of the supplementary voter lists.

So far, 7.04 crore voters have been included in the final roll, including those under adjudication. Earlier, 58 lakh names were deleted when the draft roll was published, and an additional 5.46 lakh names were removed in the final list.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to hold a protest rally in Kolkata on Friday. Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee alleged that many deletions were wrongful. "Bapi Halder, an MP from the Scheduled Caste community, received an SIR hearing notice. Several SC representatives have been deleted. I have received more than 250 calls so far. The BJP wants to take away your voting rights. Our fight is against this," Mr. Banerjee said.

Senior officials of the Election Commission, including the Senior Deputy Election Commissioner and the Deputy Election Commissioner, held a video conference on Monday with West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer, senior police officers, and district magistrates to review the preparedness for the Assembly polls.

"It has been decided by the EC to have a review meeting with enforcement agencies on March 5," an official at the CEO office said.

Sources indicated that EC officials from Delhi, including Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, may visit Kolkata next week, following which the State Assembly election schedule could be announced.

Central forces deployed

Meanwhile, several of the 480 companies of the the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have already started arriving across West Bengal, with deployments under way in Kolkata. The deployment will be in two phases and completed by March 10.

The highest deployment has been in Kolkata, where 30 companies have been stationed, followed by 28 companies in Purba Medinipur, 25 in Purba Bardhaman, and 20 in Murshidabad, among other districts.

Post-SIR, Centre forms two more panels to fast-track CAA applications in West Bengal

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

> Only 20% people in my constituency who are eligible have applied for citizenship under CAA. Either their applications are pending or they are never called for hearing
>
> **JAGANNATH SARKAR**
> BJP MP

Two days after the final electoral rolls under the special intensive revision (SIR) was published in West Bengal, the Union Home Ministry on Monday notified two more empowered committees to fast-track citizenship applications under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

In all, four such committees headed by Union government officials have been formed to clear applications, three of them in the past 10 days. West Bengal will go to the polls soon.

Thousands of people belonging to the Matua community, comprising Hindu Namasudras with roots in Bangladesh, have applied or are being encouraged by the Bharatiya Janata Party to apply for citizenship under CAA. Their names were not in the 2002 electoral rolls, and subsequently, did not appear in the final SIR list published on February 28.

Ever since the CAA was implemented in 2024, the Ministry has not provided any data on the number of applications received or citizenship certificates granted under the Act, particularly in West Bengal.

Jagannath Sarkar, BJP MP from Ranaghat, a reserved constituency in West Bengal which has a sizeable Matua population, told *The Hindu* that the empowered committee formed earlier has not been able to clear the pending CAA applications.

"Only 20% people in my constituency who are eligible have applied for citizenship under CAA. Either their applications are pending or they are never called for hearing. The postal department officials who are involved in the job have a Communist bent of mind and they are stalling the processing of applications," Mr. Sarkar said.

The CAA was opposed by many States – including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. To bypass the role of the State government in implementing the law, the CAA Rules notified on March 11, 2024, appointed an empowered committee. The panel headed by Director, Census Operations, and comprising officials from the Intelligence Bureau and Postal Department – all Central government functionaries – will clear applications, leaving no scope for the involvement of State government officials.

Mr. Sarkar said that due to bureaucratic apathy, many were not applying for citizenship.

"There is no systemic way the applicants are called for hearing. When one sees that their pleas are entangled in government files, others do not want to apply, taking a lesson from the harassment others are facing," he said.

No deadlock over RS polls, seat should go to Sena (UBT): Aaditya

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Aaditya Thackeray

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Monday denied reports of a deadlock in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance over nominations for the Rajya Sabha election.

Discussions within the MVA parties, the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT), were ongoing, Mr. Aaditya said, while also staking claim to nomination to the Rajya Sabha seat for his party's candidate.

"There is no deadlock in talks for the Rajya Sabha, all parties are in communication with each other. We have put forward our claim on the upcoming Rajya Sabha seat, as numerically and in terms of the rotation policy fixed for the MVA, the seat should be contested by the Shiv Sena (UBT). This also aligns with all the political stands that we have taken as the INDIA alliance," Mr. Aaditya said in a post on X.

The Election Commission had last week issued a notification for the election to 37 Rajya Sabha seats. Of them, seven seats are from Maharashtra.

The MVA's total strength in Maharashtra allows it to have one candidate.

The State Congress leadership wants the single seat be given to a Congress leader. If the BJP-led Mahayuti gives more than six candidates, or if the MVA gives more than one candidate, the election will be held on March 16.

Er. Nihar Ranjan Behera
Chief General Manager (P&C)

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File No. HO/P&C/EST/E-2903/01/2025/ 5701 Date: 25/02/2026

BID IDENTIFICATION NO - P&C/ EST/ E - 42/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVT. OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) invites technical and financial proposals from reputed Facility Management Services/ Operation & Maintenance agencies having experience in comprehensive facility and mess management / operation & maintenance for **"Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility and Mess Management Services for Workers' Hostels at various locations under IDCO"**. The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document can be downloaded from e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha from **5 PM of dt.05/03/2026 to 5 PM of dt.20/03/2026**. A pre bid meeting shall be held on **dt.13/03/2026 at 12 PM. in Board Room, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar**. Interested applicants are requested to send their queries by **dt.11/03/2026 by 4 PM** in the email id (**cgmpc@idco.in/pmu@idco.in**). The last date of receipt of technical bids through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha is **dt. 20/03/2026 till 5 PM**.

The cost of bid document is **Rs .11,800/- and EMD amount is Rs.10,00,000.00**. The technical bids will be opened online on **dt.23/03/2026 at 11.30 AM**. IDCO has the right to accept or reject the Notice / RFP without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- **Chief General Manager (P&C)**

4001/44/2526 OIPR-4001/4075/1/25-26/0018

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP-Procurement platform from eligible Bidders against Enquiry / Indent No: **BESCOM/ 2025-26/IND0209** for Procurement of Tool Kit as per Tender Specification to BESCOM.

Bid Documents available: **03.03.2026.** Last date for Bid Submission: **18.03.2026, 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **20.03.2026, 17:15 Hrs.** The Tenders can be obtained through KPP Portal Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers **(+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777)** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Ele.,), Procurement, Corporate office, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

UTTAR PRADESH NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (UPNEDA)
(Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010,
Tel.No. 0522-2720652, 2720779, 2720829
Website: www.upneda.org.in, Email: compneda@rediffmail.com

Opportunity for Investors & Project Developers for setting up Floating Solar Projects

Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) invites Online Applications from Investors/Project Developers for allotment of identified Dams/Reservoirs for setting up Floating Solar Projects.

Key Information for the Application is as follows:		
A.	Dam/Reservoir lease charges for public sector (PSU)	Rs. 1 /Acre/year
B.	Dam/Reservoir lease charges for private sector and JVs	Rs. 15000/Acre/year
C.	Link for Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P) and Govt. order No. 372/87 dated 14.03.2024	https://solar.upneda.in, https://www.upneda.org.in/
D.	Application invited on Portal	https://solar.upneda.in, https://www.upneda.org.in/ Portal is Live for online application
E.	Online Registration Fee	Rs. 23600.00 (Including Taxes)

Detailed application & proposals will be evaluated on '**First Come First Serve**' basis according to the standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P) dated 28.03.2025 and Govt. order No.372/87 dated 14.03.2024

Note: All applications submitted till the last day of each month will be considered as one group. Evaluation will be done on a monthly basis.

Nodal officer Details: Sh. Narendra Singh, Senior Project Officer-II, 94156 09007

Director, UPNEDA

SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW

NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
(Dept. of School Education & Literacy)
REGIONAL OFFICE : SHILLONG
TEMPLE ROAD, BARIK POINT,
LACHUMIERE, SHILLONG-793001 (MEGHALAYA)

NOTICE

To
Shri Yogesh Kumar
S/o Shri Rajinder Singh
Ex-TGT (Social Studies)
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Devrala
Distt. Bhiwani (Haryana)

Whereas, a writ petition bearing W.P.(C) No. 2283/2025 titled Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti versus Yogesh Kumar is pending adjudication before the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court.

You are hereby informed that the aforesaid matter is fixed for hearing on **25.03.2026.**

You are, therefore, directed to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the said date, either in person or through a duly authorized counsel. In the event of your failure to appear on the date so fixed, the matter shall be heard and decided **ex parte** in accordance with law.

This notice is being published by way of substituted service in compliance with the order passed by the Hon'ble Court.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI,
REGIONAL OFFICE,
SHILLONG

E-mail ID:dfo.mahanadiwl@odisha.gov.in; E-mail ID:mahanadiwl.dfo@gmail.com.Tel.-(0675)-53254015

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, MAHANADI WILDLIFE DIVISION,NAYAGARH

Ltr. No.25 Dt.27th February 2026

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) COMPETITIVE BIDDING - Bid Identification No.-24

1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Mahanadi Wildlife Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids from reputed Indian firms registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the building works detailed in the table below on turnkey basis (i.e. Architectural planning with design & execution).

Sl	Name of the building	Class of Contractor	Bid Security ₹	Cost of bid documents	Period of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PRE -FAB" COTTAGES, MULTI-PURPOSE HALL AND PERIPHERAL WORKS AT CHAMMUNDIA UNDER MAHANADI WILDLIFE DIVISION NAYAGARH IN THE STATE OF ODISHA ON TURNKEY BASIS	"A" Class Contractor	3,01,300.00	10,000/-	6 (Six) months

3. The Bid documents will be available in Division Office, Mahanadi Wildlife Division, College Road, Nayagarh and downloading in the website: **www.odishaforest.in** from **Dt.27.02.2026 at 10:00 AM**.
4. A pre-bid meeting shall be held on **Dt. 05.03.2026 at 11:00 AM** at the Conference Hall of Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Mahanadi Wildlife Division, Nayagarh.
5. Bids shall be received offline on or before - **Dt.13.03.2026 upto 1:00 PM**. Bids received offline on due date and time shall be opened at **Dt.13.03.2026 at 3:30 PM** in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Mahanadi Wildlife Division, Nayagarh.
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
7. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Divisional Forest Officer, Mahanadi WildLife Division,Nayagarh.

8001/108/2526 OIPR-8001/8017/1/25-26/0002

INBRIEF

2,600 evacuated as gas leaks from chemical unit in Palghar

A major leak of hazardous oleum gas at a chemical unit in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Monday led to the evacuation of over 2,600 people, including 1,600 school students, while three persons complained of minor eye irritation, officials said. The incident occurred at a unit of Bhageria Industries Ltd. in the Boisar MIDC area on the outskirts of Mumbai. The leak from a 2,500-litre oleum (fuming sulphuric acid) tank created a dense cloud of white fumes that spread rapidly due to strong winds, affecting areas within an estimated 5 km radius and causing panic among residents and workers.

Tribes Arts Fest kicks off in Delhi, opens to public today

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram inaugurated the government's 12-day Tribes Art Festival at Travancore Palace in New Delhi on Monday. The event brings together more than 75 tribal artists and over 1,000 works of art representing more than 30 tribal art traditions from across the country. Mr. Oram said platforms such as the TAF "move beyond symbolic celebration by creating structured market ecosystems, connecting artists with collectors, galleries, corporates, design institutions and citizens, thereby transforming cultural heritage into sustainable and aspirational livelihoods". The even is open to the public from Tuesday.

SC to look into feasibility of NAT for blood transfusion

Petitioner says safe blood transfusion is a fundamental part of right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution; Bench asks petitioner to file affidavit on whether State hospitals use NAT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to look into whether blood banks should compulsorily conduct Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) for identification of diseases.

NAT is a highly sensitive molecular technique that detects the genetic material for viruses such as HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in the blood.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi asked advocate A. Velan, counsel for petitioner-NGO Sarvesham Mangalam Foundation, about the cost-effectiveness of NAT compared with the more commonly used Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test.

The Chief Justice questioned if all the States could afford NAT in government blood banks and hospitals. Mr. Velan said the costs were comparatively low for NAT.

"Delhi can afford it. In States who are struggling hard to pay the salaries of their employees or unable to pay their electricity charges... would this be another financial burden on them?" the Bench asked.

NAT is a highly sensitive molecular technique that detects genetic material for viruses such as HIV, in the blood. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

The court asked the petitioner to research more on whether State hospitals use NAT, if so, in how many hospitals and in what States. The Bench asked the petitioner to file an affidavit with these details and posted the case for further hearing on March 13.

The petitioner argued that the right to safe blood transfusion was a fundamental part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. In addition, the plea drew the court's attention to NAT as a mechanism to ensure the supply of safe and infection-free blood to recipients.

'Preventable tragedies'

The petitioner highlighted the case of Thalassemia patients who require frequent blood transfusion and were vulnerable to transfusion of infected blood. The petition described such medical mishaps as "preventable tragedies".

"Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder which is caused by the body's inability to produce enough haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that transports oxygen from the lungs to the tissues and carbon dioxide to the lungs. As India is the Thalassemia capital of the world, there is a need to strengthen blood safety practices across the country...particularly the need for a standardised test to screen blood donations," the petition noted.

The case takes significance in the background of the reported case of at least six children found to be HIV positive in Madhya Pradesh's Satna allegedly due to contaminated blood transfusions at the district hospital during treatment for Thalassaemia in December 2025.

In October last year, the family of a seven-year-old Thalassemia patient had alleged that the local blood bank in Chaibasa, in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, had transfused HIV-infected blood. During an inquiry, by a medical team, a few days later, four more children were found to be HIV-positive from botched blood transfusion.

NMC warns against 'fake' patients in medical colleges

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Fake patient practice may lead to rejection of requests for new courses, additional seats, says NMC

Medical colleges admitting "fake patients" can see their applications for new postgraduate courses or additional seats immediately rejected, the National Medical Commission (NMC) warned in a recent order.

The commission said some medical colleges admit people who do not require any treatment to fulfill the requirement of bed occupancy and investigations. It said "fake patient practice" will invite punishment if it is reported during an assessment.

The NMC approves additional medical college seats through a stringent, time-bound online process conducted by the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB). Experts note that key aspects include adherence to the Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, and Undergraduate Minimum Standard Requirements, with strict deadlines for submission.

The NMC said that detection of fake patients may result in barring the institution from starting new courses or from increasing intake in existing courses for a period specified by the MARB. It can affect the renewal of UG and existing PG courses.

The commission has laid down guidelines to identify fake patients. These include patients admitted on the day of, or just before, an assessment. Those who have minor ailments that can be treated on an outpatient basis, and those admitted without X-ray, blood reports or any in-patient treatment such as intravenous cannula, injections, and catheterisation will be treated as "fake" patients. Multiple patients from the same family being admitted, and patients admitted in large numbers through preventive health check-up camps are also "fake". In paediatric wards, playful children admitted without any significant problem will be categorised as "fake".

The NMC said the assessment will consider the faculty, infrastructure, clinical material/indicators, and quality of education of the college.

EPF interest rate can be retained at 8.25%: EPFO

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation on Monday recommended that the Union government retain the interest rate on EPF deposits at 8.25% for 2025-26.

The CBT, during a meeting, also approved a number of reform measures of the pension fund such as a pilot project for auto-initiation of claim settlement in inoperative accounts, an amnesty scheme for exempted establishments, approval of new Employees Provident Fund, Employees Pension Scheme, and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance in tune with the Code on Social Security, and a new simplified standard operating procedure on EPF exemption.

Dharmendra Pradhan pitches for global collaborations in education

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday pitched for international collaborations in education while addressing dignitaries and diplomats from over 50 countries at the "Study in India Edu-Diplomatic Conclave", stressing that India's greatest strength was in "its vibrant knowledge ecosystem, demographic dividend and fast-growing economy".

In his address at the conclave at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi, Mr. Pradhan said "education remains the most enduring bridge between societies in a world marked by uncertainty and rapid change". "India seeks to build strong knowledge bridges with partner-countries," he added.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan speaking at the 'Study in India Edu-Diplomatic Conclave' in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

A government statement on Monday said the conclave was being organised by the Education Ministry to bring together Ambassadors, High Commissioners, representatives of diplomatic missions, and Ministry officials "to deliberate on strengthening international cooperation in higher education".

The conclave saw thematic discussions around the themes of "Indian knowledge systems as a global academic offering", "Artificial intelligence and advanced technologies", and "Bharat Innovates 2026", among others.

Academic partnerships

The topics of discussion among the delegates included those on academic partnerships through the government's SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration) and GIAN (Global Initiative for Academic Networks) initiatives, the University Grants Commission's 2023 regulations for foreign university campuses in India, international branch campuses and enabling frameworks, and the "internationalisation of India's skill architecture".

"Through National Education Policy, 2020 and the Study in India initiative, the country is expanding global pathways for students, researchers and institutions. From artificial intelligence, biotechnology and semiconductors to sustainable energy, India is emerging as a trusted innovation partner, advancing a Global South model rooted in collaboration, capacity building and shared knowledge," Mr. Pradhan said.

Tamil got wide global recognition under Modi govt., says Vice-President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Releasing 13 books published by the Publication Division under the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Tamil heritage, culture and architecture, Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan said on Monday that the language had got wide global recognition under the Narendra Modi government.

C.P. Radhakrishnan, Ashwini Vaishnaw and L. Murugan at the release of various publications in New Delhi on Monday. @VPINDIA/X

The Vice-President said the Prime Minister spoke more of Tamil than his mother tongue, Gujarati. "This should be a matter of pride for every Tamil person," he said.

He said certain people tried to portray a picture that India was never under one administrative regime and the British united the country. "But they conveniently forget that even Tamil Nadu itself was not a united society and it was divided into many kingdoms. Even though we are not a single country politically, we have been a single country culturally," he said, citing the influence of the Ramayana on the Indian society. Referring to the works of Saint Ramanuja, the Vice-President said the message of equality was spread through social reforms and works against casteism.

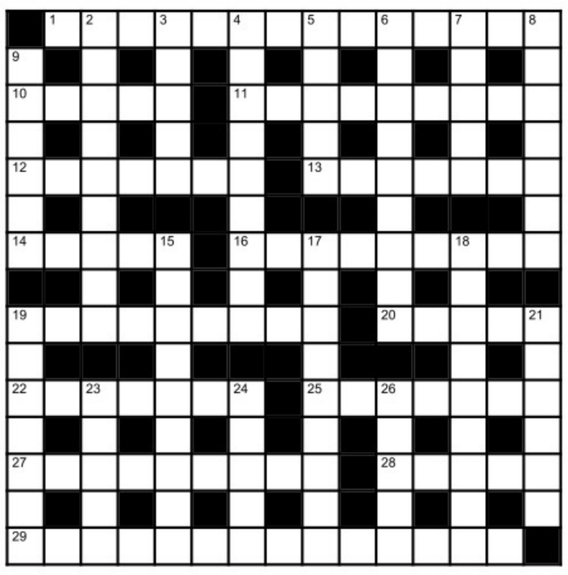
Addressing the gathering Union Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw said the Modi government has allocated nine times more funds to Tamil Nadu in the past 10 years than the UPA government. He listed several development schemes, including railway projects in the election-bound State.

TH CROSSWORD + 14731

(set by Afterdark)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One's annoyed with article on commission being inclusive (6-3-5)
10 Transport for English behind schedule (5)
11 So, bit of onion in soup makes it deadly (9)
12 Animal's range? Respected reportedly (3,4)
13 Institute keeps examiner out, being more impatient (7)
14 Instructions to get primarily strong muscles (5)
16 Holmium put in beakers to boil and make a car part (5,4)
19 Deceptive food, one tends to retire hungry (9)
20 Discussion is favouring Trump essentially (5)
22 Once, quote right for a small generator (7)
25 Perhaps, physiotherapist's service collects money for the most part (7)
27 Henry is in race, (tip) to make to final contenders (9)
28 Deceive, bring out daughter and escape (5)
29 Detective Inspector's date becomes a disaster (14)

Down

2 Persistent second defendant in trial contacted the French solicitor initially (9)
3 Overweight CM becomes hostile (5)
4 Distinct story by Stokes on 5th wicket (9)
5 One in army gets raise (5)
6 Look, she along with BF assembles a piece of furniture (9)
7 Sauce is first class with oil floating (5)
8 Some grade servers to justify (7)
9 Retired school teacher's cot in the front is in pieces (6)
15 Say, baseball player is in small bar (5-4)
17 Relative nearly outside plant to get a robot (9)
18 Buffoon cooks quail, hen and some ribs (9)
19 Decorated police officer absent; strayed (7)
21 Felt-tipped pen located on book by Henry regularly (6)
23 Hacks skip poking into chronicles lacking substance (5)
24 Greek character traps smart animal (5)
26 Son leading side with enthusiasm (5)

SUDOKU

	8	7			2			
2					7		9	
	4	6		1	9			8
7						8		
	2	8				7	6	
		4						5
4			2	5		6	8	
	7		6					4
			7			1	3	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

R	O	M	A	N	I	A	N	■
E	■	I	■	I	S	■	■	O
C	O	G	I	T	A	T	E	■
I	■	H	■	R	■	R	S	■
T	O	T	H	E	H	I	L	T
E	■	Y	■	■	■	D	■	A
■	■	■	S	T	Y	E	■	■
M	■	H	■	R	■	■	■	■
O	P	E	R	A	N	D	■	L
T	■	L	■	N	■	A	■	I
J	E	S	U	S	■	S	L	E
U	■	I	■	P	■	H	■	D
S	E	N	S	O	R	■	D	O
T	■	K	■	R	■	■	W	■
E	X	I	S	T	S	■	E	N

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	■	V	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	O	N	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	G	R	E	T	■	■	■	■
R	■	M	■	I	■	■	■	■
G	O	A	H	E	A	D	■	■
N	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	■
L	O	G	E	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	M	■	O	■	■	■	■
L	E	P	L	E	S	S	■	■
D	■	U	■	X	■	T	■	■
D	O	W	N	S	I	D	E	■
W	■	C	■	C	■	N	■	■
E	N	S	H	R	O	U	D	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	3	8	7	1	2	9	5
2	9	8	5	3	6	4	7	1
1	5	7	2	9	4	8	3	6
8	7	1	9	6	5	3	4	2
9	3	2	4	1	8	5	6	7
4	6	5	7	2	3	1	8	9
7	8	9	1	4	2	6	5	3
3	1	4	6	5	9	7	2	8
5	2	6	3	8	7	9	1	4

FAITH

Naichya bhava

Naichya bhava is very important among devotees, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. Naichya is to think about our flaws and to speak of them. It is to humble ourselves and to not be status-conscious. Naichya bhava also means we should never blame others for our mistakes. We do not have the right to speak ill of others. If something goes wrong, we must not look for someone to blame. We have no one to blame but ourselves. We must learn to attribute a failure to our karma, and not find fault with others. We should think of ourselves as inferior to others, and never assume an air of superiority. He who thinks of himself as the lowest among Lord Narayana's multitude of devotees, will be celebrated as one of His best devotees.

The Lord looks upon humble people with kindness. Pride in our looks, our education, our wealth, our status in society – none of this will help us cross the ocean of samsara. On the contrary, they will be obstacles in our journey towards liberation. A verse of Kabir's will help us understand this better. A small ant is busy carrying bits of sugar, and in course of time has a significant quantity of sugar. But look at what a proud elephant does. It scoops mud with its trunk and showers itself with the mud. Parasara Bhattar's naichya bhava is evident in his works. In one verse in Sri Rangaraja Stava, he says Lord Ranganatha has been praised by the Vedas, but He chooses to tarnish His image by listening to Bhattar's verses, like an elephant which puts mud on its head. Parasara Bhattar was a great scholar. He wrote a commentary on the Vishnu Purana. And yet, he spoke humbly of his achievements. Works of Azhwars and Acharyas reflect their naichya bhava.

INBRIEF

Rupee crashes 41 paise to settle at 91.49 against USD

The rupee saw a steep loss of 41 paise to settle at 91.49 against the U.S. dollar on Monday after U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran intensified worldwide risk aversion, setting crude oil prices on fire and demand for the American currency soaring. "The Indian rupee saw its sharpest one-day drop since late January. The currency remains under pressure as investors move toward safe-haven assets," said Dilip Parmar, senior research analyst, HDFC Securities. PTI

West Asia: Nasscom's travel advisory to member-firms

Nasscom, the tech industry apex body, has issued a travel advisory for its member-firms on Monday in the context of the evolving situation in West Asia. "As a precautionary measure, Nasscom has advised member-companies to defer travel to affected areas. Member companies have also been advised to enable work-from-home arrangements for employees currently in the region," the tech industry apex body stated in a communique.

West Asia export goods stuck, exporters seek govt. support

Engineering and textile exporters have sought government intervention as export goods to West Asian countries are stranded because of the war. A. Sakthivel, chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council, said due to the unforeseen developments export consignments are stranded at multiple airport cargo terminals across India and requested the DGCA to consider issuing suitable instruction to Cargo Terminal Operators to grant waiver of demurrage charges.

Stocks slip, oil, gold rise on war

Nifty faced its most volatile day in eight months with India VIX index up 23.54%; markets plunged 2% on opening on reports of Iran shutting down the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting about a fifth of the global oil supply before recovering a tad

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices plunged in response to U.S.-Iran conflict which dragged NSE Nifty 50 down 1.24% to 24,865.70 and BSE Sensex 30 by 1.3% to 80,238.85.

The markets plunged 2% in the opening session following reports of Iran shutting down the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting about a fifth of the global oil supply before recovering a tad.

Barring Nifty Metal and Nifty Pharma, all other NSE sectoral indices slid.

Of the 3,296 stocks traded on the index, just 651 advanced. BHEL, Hindalco. ITC, Sun Pharma and ONGC gained while Indigo, L&T, Adani Ports, Maruti Suzuki and Asian Paints declined. Nifty faced its most volatile day in eight months with the India VIX index– that measures volatility– rising 23.54% to 16.9 points. This is also the fastest increase in volatility in a day since April 7, 2025.

Eye of storm: Analysts say the war and subsequent events would sustain short-term volatility. REUTERS

Analysts say the war and a subsequent event would sustain short-term volatility. As long as Nifty 50 and Sensex 30 stayed above 24,750 and 80,000, the market may stage a reversal, said Shrikant Chouhan, head, equity research at Kotak Securities.

"Any attempt by Iran to disrupt or close the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) represents a key upside risk to crude oil, refined products and LNG prices," chief investment officer, Axis Mutual Fund Ashis Gupta wrote in a note

Brent flares

Brent Crude Futures rallied to an almost one-year high of $79.15. "A sustained upside in prices will likely materialise only if oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz remain disrupted for an extended period, potentially 4-5 weeks as per President Trump's campaign," said Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research.

"If traffic on the strait improves, price spikes may prove temporary; if it does not, supply shock could be significantly more pronounced," she said.

Gold glitters

Gold, too, rallied 3% to $5,409.7 per troy ounce on the global commodities exchange COMEX. "Safe-haven demand had already been building on Friday after China and the U.S. issued evacuation advisories urging their citizens to leave Iran and Israel, reflecting growing concern over the expanding conflict.... A decisive breakout to new highs would likely require a major escalation wrote Ms. Chainwala in her research note.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	CHANGE
Sensex	80,239	-1.29
U.S. Dollar	91.49	------
Brent oil	77.92	------

NIFTY 50

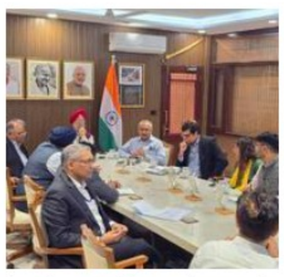
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2124.60	-37.20
Adani Ports	1470.30	-50.70
Apollo Hosp	7791.50	-30.00
Asian Paints	2307.10	-69.10
Axis Bank	1372.30	-11.60
Bajaj Auto	9776.00	-196.50
Bajaj Finserv	1941.90	-51.50
Bajaj Finance	978.25	-17.65
Bharat Elec	453.95	9.25
Bharti Airtel	1873.20	-6.10
Cipla	1351.60	3.40
Coal India	426.25	-4.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1294.40	8.10
Eicher Motors	7826.00	-184.50
Eternal Ltd.	242.87	-3.43
Grasim Ind	2777.30	-22.50
HCL Tech	1371.00	-18.10
HDFC Bank	879.40	-8.35
HDFC Life	707.30	-8.00
Hindalco	940.00	15.30
Hind Unilever	2320.60	-17.50
ICICI Bank	1374.00	-4.90
IntGlobeAvi	4520.40	-306.80
Infosys	1288.90	-11.20
ITC	314.90	1.30
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	249.00	-6.40
JSW Steel	1267.30	2.60
Kotak Bank	413.10	-2.10
L&T	4066.70	-211.60
M&M	3334.30	-63.10
Maruti Suzuki	14388.00	-469.00
Max Healthcare	1083.60	-8.35
NestleIndia	1279.70	-12.00
NTPC	377.55	-4.35
ONGC	282.20	2.50
PowerGrid Corp	296.80	-1.85
Reliance Ind	1358.00	-35.90
SBI Life	2032.20	-5.00
State Bank	1189.90	-11.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1052.50	-26.90
Sun Pharma	1752.50	15.50
TataConsumerProduct	1125.20	-15.80
Tata Steel	211.01	-1.32
TCS	2613.50	-23.90
Tech Mahindra	1345.40	-12.40
Titan	4270.30	-57.20
Tata Motors PV	370.60	-12.05
Trent Ltd.	3848.50	-51.00
UltraTech Cement	12521.00	-156.00
Wipro	198.57	-2.39

Govt., exporters review West Asia crisis disruption

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday held a meeting with all stakeholder Ministries, key logistics and trade facilitation partners to review the emerging geo-political situation due to the conflict in West Asia and its potential impact on India's export-import cargo flows, including export ecosystem, the government said.

The meeting was attended by representatives from logistics operators and shipping lines and forwarders, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, the Department of Financial Services, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Reserve Bank of India, and various export promotion bodies.



A review meeting on the supply of oil and natural gas .

"The Government reiterated its readiness to facilitate trade operations, including procedural flexibility in export-related authorisations in cases of genuine disruption, coordination with Customs authorities to ensure smooth clearance, engagement with financial and insurance institutions to support exporter interests, and continued inter-ministerial coordination," the Ministry said in a release.

During the meeting, the stakeholders presented an assessment of the evolving operational environment, including routing and transit-time changes, vessel scheduling adjustments, container and equipment availability, freight and insurance cost trends, and implications for time-sensitive exports.

Maintain predictability

"The discussions covered the need to maintain predictability in cargo movement, minimise avoidable delays, and ensure seamless documentation and payment processes for exporters and importers," a release added.

The stakeholders agreed to maintain close, real-time coordination for monitoring route and capacity developments, surcharges and equipment availability. "India has successfully navigated multiple global disruptions and continues to strengthen supply chain resilience," the government said

Separately, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas also said it reviewed on Monday the supply of oil, natural gas and other petroleum products.

Pine Labs eyes stablecoin prepaid card

Pine Labs will launch a stablecoin-backed prepaid card across nine countries in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia. REUTERS

AI Express CEO Singh set to step down

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India Express CEO Aloke Singh announced his tenure will conclude later this month – a move that is part of a planned management reshuffle.

While a new CEO has yet to be named, chief operating officer Hamish Maxwell will assume the regulatory responsibilities of accountable manager, Mr. Singh said in an internal mail reviewed by *The Hindu*.

Mr. Singh took over as CEO in November 2020 and was additionally appointed MD in March 2023. During his tenure, he steered the airline through the pandemic, privatisation and transition to Tata Sons alongside AI as well as merger with AirAsia India.

Surging fleet size

Under his leadership, the airline grew from a 26-aircraft operation to a 105-strong fleet.

In another top-level reshuffle at AI Group, CEO Campbell Wilson said internally AI head of engineering or SVP & chief technical officer Sisira Kanta Dash will move to a new role of group chief strategy officer-engineering from April 1. Singaporean Jeremy Yew will take his place as the new SVP engineering & maintenance.

Tea exports to West Asia take a hit as conflict shows signs of escalation

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

With shipping corridors to West Asian countries affected due to the war, tea shipments are either stranded with exporters, at Indian ports, or, at destination ports, say exporters.

The escalating conflict poses significant risks for India's tea export sector, given that about 45-50% of India's total tea exports are shipped to countries in the West Asian region, said Ajoy Thipaiah, president, the United Planters Association of South India.

In 2024, India recorded strong export volumes to Iraq (52.59 million kg), UAE (52.71 million kg), Iran (11.25 million kg) and Saudi Arabia (7.94 million kg). The closure of Strait of Hormuz will have a direct bearing on the exports to these regions

Losing flavour: Tea exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia have been on a rise in recent years. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Expensive freight

Increased freight charges, rising insurance premiums and extended transit times will significantly raise transaction costs. Trade route instability – particularly through key maritime corridors – may further delay shipments and strain supply chains, he said.

While trade tensions eased with the reduction of U.S. tariffs, they now face a new challenge of a full-blown war in West Asia. Tea exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia have been on a rise in recent years as they transit to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq and other countries from there. The extent of business losses is hard to assess now, said Dipak Shah of South India Tea Exporters Association.

Infosys' 'dealmaker' Ramnani resigns

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Based on experience at TCS, HCL, he built an indirect sales engine with 18 channels

Kishore Ramnani, who helped the company build an $80 billion deal pipeline and a deal win of close to $18 billion in the last over 10 years, has resigned.

Mr. Ramnani, Texas-based VP, global strategic sales, large deals and partnerships at Infosys, known as 'shark hunter' in tech circles, put in his papers on February 27 to take up a more challenging task at a California-based technology firm backed by a private equity firm.

Ten years ago when he joined Infosys, the firm was not a major force in large deals as it mostly followed a direct sales model. Based on his prior experience at TCS and HCL, he was instrumental in building an indirect sales engine with 18 channels as direct sales channel was not able to really trigger large deals.

He cracked open 45 new accounts and put Infosys at the table for 40 mega-deal pursuits which eventually defined the company's digital transformation.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
VALIAMALA P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA
Ph: 0471 – 256 7445 / 7326 / 7577 e-mail: contracts_cmg@lpsc.gov.in

EXTENSION OF E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online **EPC tenders** are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

Description	Details
Title of work	Planning, Design and Construction of NFAT Facility for NGLV at LPSC, ISRO, Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala (Civil, Electrical, AC, Mechanical and allied works) in EPC Mode-1
E-NIT No. and Date	LPSC-V/CMD/CS/01/1145/TE-023/2025-26 dated 05.01.2026
Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 8075 Lakh
Period of completion	Twenty (20) months
Earnest money deposit (EMD)	₹ 90,75,000/- (Rupees Ninety lakh and seventy five thousand)
Period during which the tender document can be requested.	Extended up to: 23:30 Hrs on 15.03.2026
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded.	Extended up to: 23:59 Hrs on 15.03.2026
Bid Clarifications	Extended up to: 09:00 Hrs on 18.03.2026
Reply to Bid Clarifications	Extended up to: 17:00 Hrs on 19.03.2026
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Extended up to: 14:30 Hrs on 27.03.2026
Due date and time of opening of tenders	Extended up to: 15:00 Hrs on 27.03.2026

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi - English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html**, **https://www.lpsc.gov.in/tender.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

Sd/- Head, CMD/LPSC (V)

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER, (S.C.M) & C.S.C, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_841802_1, PAC: Rs.7,71,78,400/-, Last Date: 21.03.2026 05.00 pm
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_842031_1, PAC: Rs.2,43,77,040/-, Last Date: 23.03.2026 04.00 pm
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_842331_1, PAC: Rs.15,63,12,803/-, Last Date: 26.03.2026 05.00 pm
CORRIGENDUM
O/o THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL DIVISION, Kazhakuttom, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_838116_1, PAC: Rs.1,66,28,391/-, Last Date: 05.03.2026 .05.00 pm
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kseb.in**
Ref : PR/MC1/E605 - E-tender/2026

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012
IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 **19.02.2026**
Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-CIV-22/2025-26

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform https://eprocure.gov.in. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of **Class I/Class A Civil Contractors** are eligible to apply for the work of **"Civil and Electrical Modification works required for Aryabhata and Tunga Hostels (Dining and Kitchen Area) at IISc Bangalore."** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.82,56,383.00/-** Last date of receipt of application is **18th March 2026 at 1530Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or **e-mail office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

Sd/- REGISTRAR

COCHIN PORT कोचिन पत्तन प्राधिकरण Cochin Port Authority
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR BEACH FRONT LAND LEASE
Cochin Port Authority invites Expression of Interest (EoI) for development of Marine Tourism related activities at Puthuvypeen Beach on long-term Lease Basis.
For more information
www.cochinport.gov.in

Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Sustainability, Hygiene and Resilience Project (KMC-SHARP)
INVITATION FOR BID **Date : 03.03.2026**
Kolkata Municipal Corporation represented by **Project Director, KMC-SHARP, 206, A.J.C Bose Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata-700 017, West Bengal**, India invites eligible bidders to submit bids online in the e-Tendering platform of the Government of West Bengal **(URL: https://wbtenders.gov.in)** for the Works of:
Design & Construction of 41 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Anandapur in Ward 108 Including Operation & Maintenance for 15 years; Contract Package No: KMC-SHARP/OCB/SD04/2025-26
Bidders may download the tender document from **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
Bid submission start date (online): From **14:30 hours** on **07.04.2026**
Bid submission closing date (online): Up to **14:30 hours** on **23.04.2026**

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA, CUTTACK
(Established by Odisha Act IV of 2008)
Kathajodi Campus, Sector 13, CDA, Cuttack - 753015, Odisha
[Accredited by NAAC]
Advert. No.: NLUO/VCR-001/2026-03-03
APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR
The Search Committee invites applications / nominations from eminent academicians in the field of Law who are interested to serve NLUO as its Vice-Chancellor. The terms of appointment will be as per the provisions of the NLUO Act and the salary and perks shall be as per UGC scales of Vice-Chancellor.
The person to be appointed as Vice-Chancellor should be a distinguished academician in law with a minimum of ten years' experience as Professor in a University or ten years' of experience in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
Interested candidates may apply with their detailed Resume / CV along with a vision statement for NLUO (not exceeding 2000 words). Application may be sent either in electronic form **(searchcommittee@nluo.ac.in)** or speed post **(National Law University Odisha, Cuttack, Kathajodi Campus, Sector 13, CDA, Cuttack-753015)** addressed to **Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri, Chairperson, Search Committee** by **31st March, 2026**. The shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interaction with the Search Committee. The shortlisted candidates shall also be provided T.A./D.A. as per the University rules.
Search Committee

BEIRUT

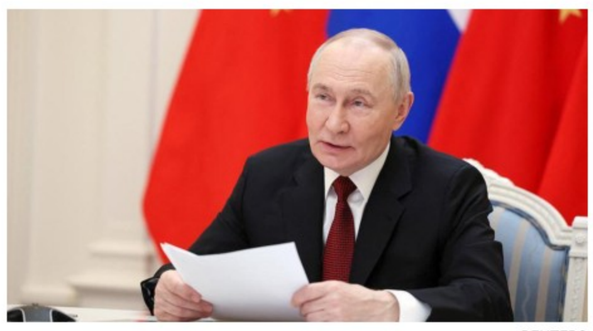
Israel kills 52 in Lebanon, vows to expand strikes after Hezbollah fire

AP

Israeli strikes on Lebanon killed at least 52 people on Monday, officials said, following rocket fire from Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah after the killing of Iran's supreme leader. Israel vowed to intensify its attacks on the country and make Hezbollah pay a "heavy price" after striking Beirut's suburbs and south Lebanon. AFP

MOSCOW

Putin urges ceasefire in West Asia during calls with regional leaders



REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin urged a ceasefire during phone calls with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday amid the escalating war in West Asia. Mr. Putin also spoke with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kremlin said. AFP

TEHRAN

Trump's 'delusional fantasies' have led to chaos: Iranian security chief

REUTERS

U.S. leader Donald Trump's "delusional fantasies" have plunged West Asia into chaos, the head of Tehran's Supreme National Security Council said on Monday. "Mr. Trump plunged the region into chaos with his 'delusional fantasies' and now fears more American troop casualties," Ali Larijani wrote on X. AFP

BANGKOK

Myanmar junta pardons 10,000 prisoners before Parliament opens

AFP

Myanmar's military government granted amnesty to 10,162 prisoners, including 7,337 convicted under a counterterrorism law, on Monday. There was no sign that former leader Aung San Suu Kyi would be freed. The amnesty comes two weeks before Parliament is set to convene for its first session following the recent election. AP

Trump lists war objectives, says Iran operation to last four to five weeks

U.S. President refuses to rule out sending ground troops to Tehran, a sentiment also echoed by Defense Secretary Hegseth; Pentagon chief says the war is not a democracy-building exercise; Trump says 'substantially ahead' of given time projections

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said he is not ruling out sending U.S. troops into Iran, while threatening a new, "big wave" of attacks.

While so far the assault has focused entirely on aerial attacks by missiles and bombs, Mr. Trump refused to rule out sending ground troops.

"I do not have the yips with respect to boots on the ground," Mr. Trump said, using a golf term for anxiety. "Every President says, 'There will be no boots on the ground.' I don't say it."

A plume of smoke rises after a strike in Tehran on Monday. AP

"I say 'probably don't need them,' (or) 'if they were necessary,'" he told the *New York Post*.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth also signalled on Monday that deploying troops inside Iran had not been ruled out. Asked if there were already boots on the ground, Mr. Hegseth told a news conference: "No, but we're not going to go into the exercise of what we will or will not do."

Mr. Trump also, for the first time, clearly laid out what he said were four objectives regarding Iran.

They include destroying the West Asian country's missile capabilities and "annihilating the navy." "We've knocked out already 10 ships. They're at the bottom of the sea," he said.

The U.S. President said that the other goals were stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and "ensuring the Iranian regime can't continue to arm, fund and direct terrorist armies outside of their borders."

Mr. Trump said that the United States could sustain the assault beyond the month-long time frame he has publicly spoken about.

"We're already substantially ahead of our time projections," Mr. Trump said. "From the beginning we projected four to five weeks, but we have capability to go far longer than that. We'll do it."

Meanwhile, Mr. Hegseth sought to differentiate the Iran operation from past long-running U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying the war is not an effort to build democracy in Iran.

"No stupid rules of engagement, no nation building quagmire, no democracy-building exercise. No politically correct wars. We fight to win and we don't waste time or lives," the Pentagon chief said. "This is not Iraq. This is not endless," Mr. Hegseth said.

Starmer allows U.S. to utilise U.K. bases for strikes on Iran

Agence France-Presse
LONDON/AKROTIRI

Britain evacuated one of its sovereign bases in Cyprus on Monday while the Cypriot government evacuated its second biggest airport, after it said two drones heading for Akrotiri had been "dealt with".

The incident comes a day after British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Sunday he had agreed to let the United States use U.K. bases to fire "defensive" strikes aimed at destroying Iranian missiles and their launchers.

But in a video address posted to social media, he added: "We were not involved in the initial strikes on Iran and we will not join offensive action now."

On Monday, an Iranian Shahed drone crashed into the Akrotiri base, causing minor damage, according to Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides.

Keir Starmer

Shortly after, Cypriot government spokesman Konstantinos Letymbiotis posted on X that "Two unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) heading toward the British Bases in Akrotiri were dealt with in a timely manner".

The Interior Ministry then announced the evacuation of the area around Akrotiri as well as Paphos airport, one of two international airports in government-controlled Cyprus which hosts a military base used by the United States.

In his statement on Sunday, Mr. Starmer added "the only way to stop the threat" from Iran was "to destroy the missiles at source.

"The United States has requested permission to use British bases for that specific and limited defensive purpose," he added, without specifying locations.

France, Germany ready

Earlier on Sunday, France, Germany and the U.K. said in a joint statement they were ready to defend their interests and those of its allies in the Gulf if necessary by taking "defensive action" against Iran.

Old parties dig in, new ones offer change as Nepal heads to the polls

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

"I could either ring the bell or light the bulb," says Kumar Tamang, referring to the election symbols of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and the Ujyalo Nepal Party (UNP).

Mr. Tamang, 44, operates a drinking water tanker in Lalitpur on the outskirts of Kathmandu. A migrant from Ramechhap district, around a five-hour drive east of Kathmandu, he voted in the past for one of Nepal's established parties – either the Nepali Congress or the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), (UML). This time, he says, he is inclined to switch.

"I want to try something different," he says, reflecting a sentiment increasingly visible among urban, younger, and working-class voters in the run-up to the March 5 general election. Mr. Tamang's indecision mirrors a larger trend: voters weighing new parties against traditional ones, even as Nepal faces a deeply fragmented parliamentary landscape.

The election comes months after youth-led protests toppled the government led by CPN-UML's K.P. Sharma Oli, which had been backed by the Nepali Congress. An interim government led by Sushila Karki took office on September 12 and dissolved the House of Representatives, calling for new polls.

More than 60 parties and over 3,000 candidates are in the fray for the 275-member House of Representatives, which is composed of 165 directly elected members and 110 elected under the proportional representation system. With no party expected to secure a clear majority – 138 seats – coalition governments, already fragile in Nepal's recent history, may face renewed instability, making post-poll negotiations decisive for governance.

Campaign fervour: Supporters waving flags attend a rally of Nepali Congress on Sunday ahead of parliamentary polls on March 5. AFP

Hari Giri, 25, a restaurant server in Kathmandu, does not plan to travel to his home district of Darchula in the far west to vote. "It takes about three days by the time I reach home," he says. "Anyway, I am not hopeful of any parties – new or old."

Internal migration

Internal migration has long complicated electoral participation, particularly in rural constituencies where absentee urban voters must return to cast ballots.

Nar Bahadur Shrestha, a shop owner in Lalitpur, is contemplating splitting his vote, backing an established party candidate under first-past-the-post and choosing a newer formation – either the RSP or UNP – under proportional representation.

The RSP, which emerged as the fourth-largest force in the 2022 election, has campaigned on governance reform and anti-corruption measures. It has consolidated support among urban and younger voters dissatisfied with traditional parties.

The UNP was formed in December by technocrat-turned-politician Kulman Ghising, widely credited for reducing chronic power cuts during his tenure at the Nepal Electricity Authority. Mr. Ghising has named his party "Ujyalo" – meaning "bright" – and adopted a light bulb as its election symbol. Both parties have framed the election as an opportunity to reset political culture.

Converting protest energy into parliamentary strength, however, remains uncertain in Nepal's competitive multi-party system where established parties like the Congress and the UML retain organisational structures and depth.

Leadership projection has become a central feature of this campaign. Unlike previous elections, parties have openly projected prime ministerial faces, despite the parliamentary system not requiring pre-declared candidates.

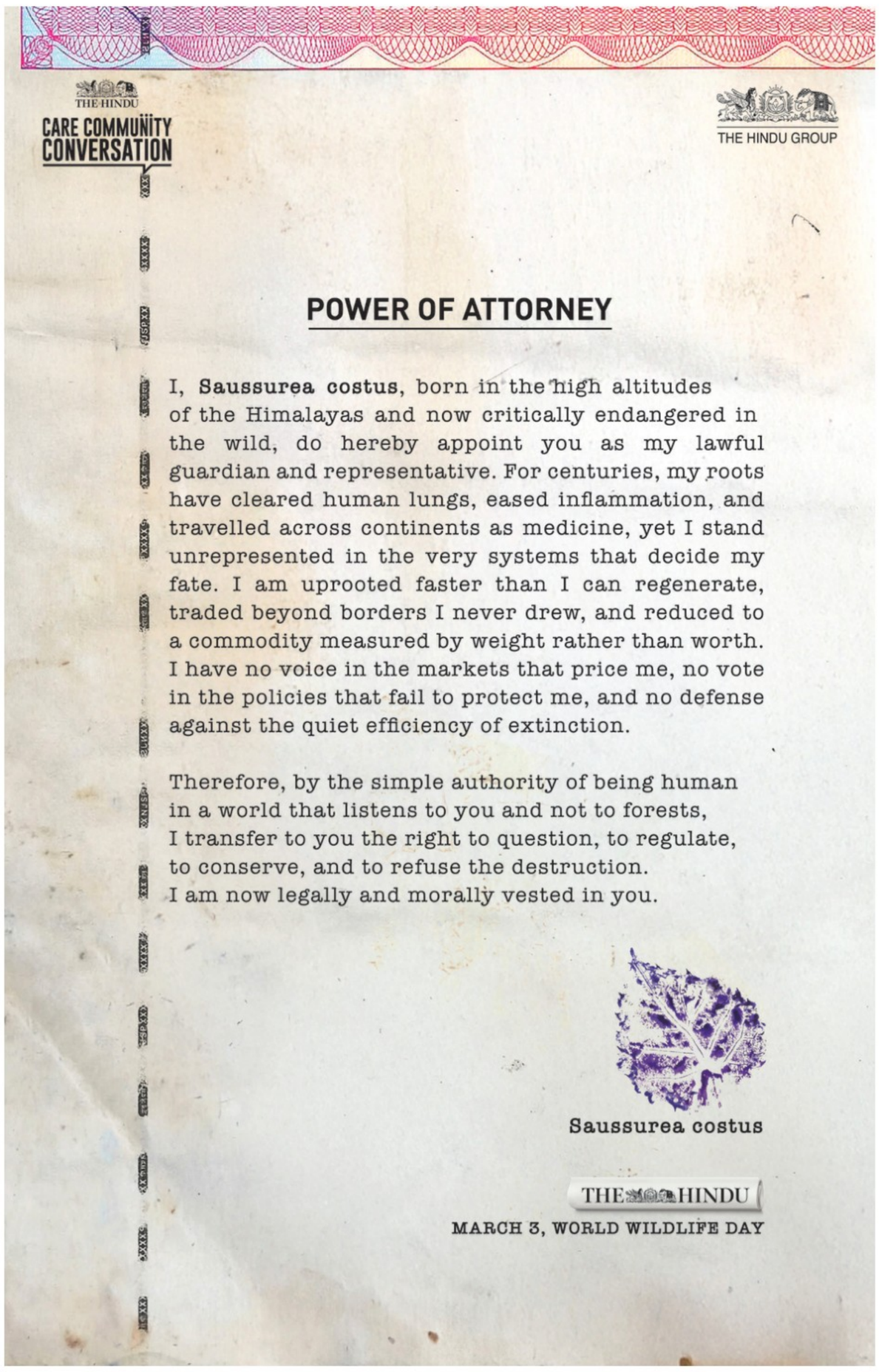
The Nepali Congress, Nepal's oldest party, is foregrounding 49-year-old Gagan Thapa, who took charge earlier this year, projecting generational renewal while emphasising continuity through a Congress 2.0 rebranding. The CPN-UML is rallying behind its chairman, Mr. Oli, 74, a three-time Prime Minister.

Adding to the leadership-focused narrative, Balendra Shah, the former mayor of Kathmandu, has entered the fray on the RSP ticket in Jhapa-5, Mr. Oli's long-held constituency. Mr. Shah has positioned himself as an anti-establishment challenger expanding his appeal beyond municipal politics.

Each represents a distinct governing philosophy. Mr. Shah projects velocity and disruption; Mr. Thapa emphasises process and institutional reform; Mr. Oli is associated with power consolidation and strong central authority. Each approach, however, carries potential risks. Rapid disruption could strain democratic norms; process-heavy reform could slow urgent decision-making; concentrated authority could test constitutional limits.

For voters such as Mr. Tamang, the calculation is simpler: "If the person or party I vote for does not win, I don't mind," he says. "I just want to make my own contribution to blocking the old ones."

Mr. Giri, the restaurant worker, remains sceptical. Younger than Nepal's post-1990 democratic transition, he sees little tangible change in his own life – including the fact that it still takes him three days to reach home to vote.


THE HINDU
CARE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
THE HINDU GROUP
POWER OF ATTORNEY
I, Saussurea costus, born in the high altitudes of the Himalayas and now critically endangered in the wild, do hereby appoint you as my lawful guardian and representative. For centuries, my roots have cleared human lungs, eased inflammation, and travelled across continents as medicine, yet I stand unrepresented in the very systems that decide my fate. I am uprooted faster than I can regenerate, traded beyond borders I never drew, and reduced to a commodity measured by weight rather than worth. I have no voice in the markets that price me, no vote in the policies that fail to protect me, and no defense against the quiet efficiency of extinction.
Therefore, by the simple authority of being human in a world that listens to you and not to forests, I transfer to you the right to question, to regulate, to conserve, and to refuse the destruction. I am now legally and morally vested in you.
Saussurea costus
THE HINDU
MARCH 3, WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

TURNING IT AROUND

Did some soul-searching and kept believing in myself: Samson

K.R. DEEPAK

I did some soul-searching. I kept believing in myself. I switched off my phone and (stayed away from) social media. I listened to my own self. I am very happy it happened in a very special game — Sanju Samson after his unbeaten 97 against the West Indies in the T20 World Cup in Kolkata on Sunday.

JUST REWARD

'Fans will be happy that Samson has got the success he deserves'

K.R. DEEPAK

This knock of 97 not out takes the weight off not just Sanju Samson's shoulders but off everyone who knows what a fine player he has been. Everybody wants him to do well. All the Indian fans will be happy that this sincere cricketer has got the success he deserves — Sunil Gavaskar praising Samson.

IN SUBLIME TOUCH

Samson's knock made millions around the globe happy: Shastri

K.R. DEEPAK

Ravi Shastri hailed Sanju Samson's knock against the West Indies in the T20 World Cup, saying: "It is Sanju's special Samson, and that innings was special... just his calmness, his composure, and just the sublime touch right through that innings. He brought everything to the fore and made millions around the globe happy".

QUALITY PLAYER

Samson should be a regular in India's white-ball squads: Ganguly

K.R. DEEPAK

Sourav Ganguly backed Sanju Samson to feature consistently in India's white-ball squads. "He should consistently play for India in white-ball cricket — 100%. It was a virtual quarterfinal (against the West Indies), and to be 97 not out shows his quality. When he gets in, he will hurt the opposition".

Force is with the Men in Blue despite chinks in their armour

Samson's brilliance helps the defending champion edge out West Indies in a virtual knockout game; the team, however, needs to be more disciplined with the ball and improve its catching to get past England in the semifinal at Wankhede

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
KOLKATA

In a city suffused with old warmth, India guided by Sanju Samson, dished out a performance for the ages. Sunday's five-wicket win against the West Indies in the ICC T20 World Cup here at the Eden Gardens was a hard-fought one.

Samson's unbeaten 97 seemed unhurried but beneath that optical illusion, there was a sense of urgency too. Samson picked his singles, largely hit along the ground, and always found a four to ease the pressure.

Having succumbed to the pull often, Samson focussed on playing straight down the ground. However, he was not averse to freeing his arms to flick a six over square-leg, or rocking back to guide and cut past the off-side cordon.

He picked the gaps and while his partners departed, Samson remained unhindered and his match-winning effort sealed India's semifinal berth.

A target of 196 in a virtual knockout game, comes infused with extreme pressure. Ideally, it demands one batter to be the anchor, and he along with the rest are supposed to score at around 10 per over.

One for the ages: Samson played arguably his finest knock to keep the Indian dream alive. K.R. DEEPAK

Samson delivered, and a few others chipped in too. Among his partners, Tilak Varma sparkled, while Shivam Dube hit two vital fours in the penultimate over. In an encounter spilling into the last over, Dube had set the base for Samson to lend his finishing touch, which he did with a six and a four.

At various points, Suryakumar Yadav's men found ways to stay alive. Jasprit Bumrah's two wickets while the West Indies batted, and Samson's effort allied with some cameos, meant that the defending champion was always in the race. It was a fact that coach Gautam Gambhir stressed too.

Shot in the arm

After the loss to South Africa, the victories over Zimbabwe and the West Indies have energised the Indian outfit.

But there is never a perfect unit, and India has its chinks. While bowling, extras are being conceded and in games of narrow margins, this could prove fatal. Against the West Indies, 10 wides were bowled.

Catches have been shelled; for instance, Abhishek Sharma dropped two against the West Indies. Under lights, a miscued shot sailing high and then descending can be unsettling. The world is watching, the ball seems to hang in the air for eternity, and the pressure is real. But fielders have to find a way.

These blips need to be ironed out before Thursday's semifinal against England at Mumbai. For now, the force is with India.

Truly a match-winning effort by Samson: Kotak

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
KOLKATA

The finer points: Batting coach Kotak says some technical adjustments were made while Samson's game evolved. K. R. DEEPAK

Sitanshu Kotak always put a heavy price on his wicket. Saurashtra's doughty southpaw was a domestic giant. Never aesthetic in his approach, Kotak always made effective runs. Now in his role as the Indian team's batting coach, he draws satisfaction from the way his wards perform.

He couldn't stop smiling late on Sunday night after Sanju Samson's unbeaten 97 took India past the West Indies in the ICC T20 World Cup clash at the Eden Gardens. "Sanju is such a class player. He batted really well. Truly a match-winning innings. Everybody knew that Sanju will perform," Kotak told the media.

The batting coach admitted that some technical adjustments were made while Samson evolved: "He felt he was getting ready a little early. Sanju does two to three different things. We have been talking from the England series, about the short balls he got out to. All that we discussed."

Through his knock, Samson looked assured, and Kotak explained: "The special feature about this innings was that it was completely under control. That's what you expect from someone like Sanju who is so experienced. He has scored so many runs in internationals, in the IPL. In a way, he has been a leader. That's what you expect from someone like him."

Kotak also praised Tilak Varma: "Tilak is very flexible. He never talks about the batting order. If you want him to open, he is ready. Number three, he really enjoys. Now, with the situation of having three left-handers in a row, he knew that the batting order was changing for that reason.

"Obviously, Surya, we won't change, so Tilak goes in at five. He understands that. Though he is aggressive, he plays according to the merit of the ball. He doesn't blindly slog the ball".

Two steps away

The 2026 ICC T20 World Cup semifinalists have featured in the last-four phase at least three times. A look at when they made the cut and how they fared:

SOUTH AFRICA
QUALIFIED (3): 2009, 2014, 2024
WON: 1 | LOST: 2
2009: Lost to Pakistan by seven runs
2014: Lost to India by six wickets
2024: Beat Afghanistan by nine wickets

INDIA
QUALIFIED (5): 2007, 2014, 2016, 2022 & 2024
WON: 3 | LOST: 2
2007: Beat Australia by 15 runs
2014: Beat South Africa by six wickets
2016: Lost to West Indies by seven wickets
2022: Lost to England by 10 wickets
2024: Beat England by 68 runs

NEW ZEALAND
QUALIFIED (4): 2007, 2016, 2021, 2022
WON: 1 | LOST: 3
2007: Lost to Pakistan by six wickets
2016: Lost to England by Seven wickets
2021: Beat England by five wickets
2022: Lost to Pakistan by seven wickets

- South Africa and New Zealand have never faced each other in the semifinals
- The Proteas are the only unbeaten side in this edition
- South Africa and India can join the list of teams which have made back-to-back finals. Pakistan (2007 & '09) and Sri Lanka (2012 & '14) are the members of the select club

- **MARCH 4: FIRST SEMIFINAL:** South Africa vs. New Zealand, Kolkata, 7 p.m.

ENGLAND
QUALIFIED (5): 2010, 2016, 2021, 2022, 2024
WON: 3 | LOST: 2
2010: Beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets
2016: Beat New Zealand by seven wickets
2021: Lost to New Zealand by five wickets
2022: Beat India by 10 wickets
2024: Lost to India by 68 runs

- India will face England in the semifinal stage for the third successive edition
- India and England have a 1-1 head-to-head record in last-four matches
- The last time India played a final-four game at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, it went down to the West Indies (2016)

- **MARCH 5: SECOND SEMIFINAL:** India vs. England, Mumbai, 7 p.m.

COMPILED BY S. SHRIVATHSAN

South Africa, England are playing outstanding cricket

Sunil Gavaskar

South Africa and England cruised into the T20 World Cup semifinals winning all their matches in the Super Eight stage. Both have played some outstanding cricket and look the likely finalists.

But then, a T20 match can turn on its head in a matter of deliveries and New Zealand will be hoping to get that over or two against South Africa, which will turn the game their way.

It's never easy to captain a team in any form of the game, but in this ultra-short format, it's even tougher as the matches can turn in an over. In the game against England, Mitchell Santner brought on Glenn Phillips to bowl the 18th over. Phillips had dismissed England skipper Harry Brook in his first over and so Santner's confidence in him was understandable, but he is not a front-line bowler. The 22 runs that were taken in that over turned the game England's way.

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INDIA'S No. 1
FANS & PUMPS COMPANY
* As of FY 2023-2024 based on the external agency's validation for the Fans & Residential Pumps category.

Similarly, the reluctance to use Daryl Mitchell up the order is costing New Zealand valuable runs. Brook, meanwhile, has gone from strength to strength with his promotion to number three so much so that there's a school of thought that wants him to open the batting. Remember, he came in to face the second ball of the game against Pakistan, which is as good as opening the batting. He went on to get a memorable ton.

Will Jacks is the guy who is having a dream tournament. He is making an impact with both bat and ball, and to have somebody like him batting at number seven is a huge plus for England.

South Africa will be relying on skipper Aiden Markram to get them off to a start along with Quinton de Kock, who hasn't quite fired yet. Lungi Ngidi has been the standout bowler with his off-pace deliveries and if Kagiso Rabada can get his rhythm right, South Africa have a lethal new-ball attack backed by the all-round skills of Corbin Bosch. The in-form South Africans should go through but New Zealand, the team that always flies under the radar, could spring another surprise.

(Professional Management Group)

South Africa must embrace 'favourite' tag, says Conrad

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

The pressure of expectations can at once be a blessing and a burden. In past ICC white-ball events, South Africa has appeared to be largely weighed down by that pressure.

As it gears up to face New Zealand in the T20 World Cup semifinal at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday, head coach Shukri Conrad wants his team to embrace the attention.

The Proteas, after all, are fully deserving of the tag of being the team to beat in the shortest format's showpiece event.

Perfect record

Having strung together seven wins in as many matches, Aiden Markram and Co. are the only undefeated outfit in the tournament.

"There's always pressure, and it's really about embracing that pressure. Whether we start as favourites (against NZ), probably because we're the only unbeaten side.

"I'm glad we're favourites because I always felt that as a South African team, you want to be able to play as a favourite. It's easy being an underdog. The expectation isn't great or that much," Conrad said on Sunday.

The knockout phase has historically been South Africa's Kryptonite, but as the 58-year-old pointed out, it is only by getting that far time and again that the albatross around its neck can be banished.

Since the 2023 ODI World Cup, the African giant, which notably won the 2025 World Test Championship final against Australia under Temba Bavuma's leadership, has reached the last-four stage of every ICC limited-overs event.

"If you continually make semifinals and finals, eventually you're going to win one. But if you don't make it, you can't win anything," Conrad stated.

SNAPSHOTS

Afghanistan to play one Test, three ODIs in India

NEW DELHI: Afghanistan will kick off its upcoming tour of India with a one-off Test, the BCCI announced on Monday. The visitors will also play three ODIs. "The Afghanistan Test will be played in New Chandigarh from June 6 to June 10," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a media release.

The schedule:
Test: June 6 to 10, New Chandigarh; **ODIs:** June 14 (Dharamshala), June 17 (Lucknow) and June 20 (Chennai).

Stranded Sindhu set to miss All England championships

BIRMINGHAM: P.V. Sindhu is set to miss the All England championships starting here on Tuesday after being stranded in Dubai amid the US bombing of Iran and the resultant air space closure in the Gulf. India's top men's singles contender Lakshya Sen and the fast-rising Ayush Shetty reached Birmingham without travel issues. While Lakshya has drawn World No. 1 Shi Yu Qi of China, Ayush will be up against Indonesia's Alwi Farhan. Unnati Hooda, whose flight was cancelled on Sunday forcing her to travel via Africa, will need to overcome jet lag when she takes on Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong. In men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will meet Malaysia's Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai.

Expert talk: McGrath offers advice as Senthilnathan watches on. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

McGrath not surprised by Australia's early exit

The legendary pacer feels questionable team selections could have led to its ouster; he picks India and South Africa to make the title decider

CRICKET

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Australia's shock exit in the group stage of the ongoing T20 World Cup may have surprised many but not former pacer Glenn McGrath, who questioned some of the selections.

"I said I was concerned about Australia. I thought they might make the Super Eight, but to be honest, I didn't feel they would progress much further. The fact that they didn't even make the last eight is disappointing," said McGrath, who is in the city as part of his annual visit to the MRF Pace Foundation, which he heads.

"Steve Smith, who had been in form in the Big Bash [League], was there but not selected. Matt Renshaw scored 65 (against Zimbabwe) and was not picked for the next game (vs Sri Lanka). I am not sure what they were thinking, and you do wonder about the selections," McGrath added.

The Australian legend picked India and South Africa to reach the summit clash. "I think South Africa has been the team of the tournament so far. They will be tough to beat, but on their day, India can do something special. England is a dangerous team, but they have been all over the place."

Bumrah, a class apart

On India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, McGrath hailed his exceptional skill, saying he is probably among the two best bowlers in T20 cricket today. "I'm always a big fan of Bumrah. The way he goes about it, he understands the game so well. Bumrah is a big-game player, and these guys thrive in such situations.

"To me, the two best T20 bowlers in the world are Bumrah and Josh Hazlewood. They bowl almost Test-match lengths in T20s, and it's still effective."

All praise for Healy

McGrath also heaped praise on Alyssa Healy, who retired from One-Day Internationals on Sunday. "She's been a quality player for Australia for a long time, probably the backbone of the side. She will be remembered as one of the greats of the game, not just women's cricket."

Abdusattorov cashes in on Gukesh's blunder

Press Trust of India
PRAGUE

The fortunes of World champion D. Gukesh did not change for the fifth day running as the Indian blundered from a position of strength to lose to nemesis Nodirbek Abdusattorov at the Prague International Chess Festival here.

Just a month ago, Gukesh had lost to Abdusattorov through a blunder from a decent position during the Tata Steel Masters but the fifth round here was even more heartbreaking as the Indian did everything right for the major part of the middle game and seemed like cruising through to an easy victory before faltering in the closing stages of the first time control.

There seems to be no stopping Dutch Grandmaster Jorden van Foreest who climbed to number in 11 in the world ranking in live ratings following win over Hans Moke Niemann, his fourth in five games. Holder Aravindh Chithambaram succumbed to his third defeat in five games.

Important results: Fourth round: Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 3.5) bt D. Gukesh (1.5); Aravindh Chithambaram (1.5) lost to David Anton Guijarro (Esp, 3). **Challengers:** Surya Shekhar Ganguly (1) lost to Divya Deshmukh (2.5).

LIVE TELECAST

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 1 a.m. & 1.45 a.m. (Wednesday)

Awareness, discipline helped us: Chirag

Doing his bit: Physio Chirag, right, with head coach Ajay Sharma.

RANJI TROPHY

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

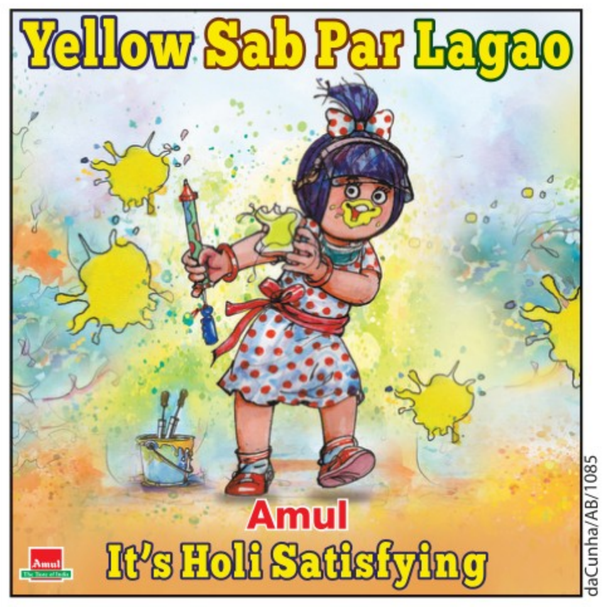
In today's relentless cricket calendar – with tournaments stretching from Kanyakumari to Kashmir – keeping high-performance athletes in peak condition demands far more than routine training. It calls for constant care, precision and a deep understanding of the body under pressure, making the physio's role crucial.

For the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), that driving force has been Chirag Pandya, the man who elevated the team's fitness standards to a whole new level – a shift reflected in a riveting domestic campaign that culminated in J & K becoming Ranji Trophy champion for the very first time.

In an exclusive chat with the *The Hindu*, Chirag spoke about what the triumph means and the unwavering support he receives from his players.

"I'm extremely happy, the feeling hasn't fully sunk in yet. I'm still trying to digest what it means to be champions. It's been a thrilling experience. I've been with the team for five years now and, from the very first season, we focused on following a clear process. Year after year, we could see steady progress. This season, everything we had worked towards finally came together," said the 34-year-old.

"Touchwood, we had very few injuries this season. Unfortunately, just before the final, we had an on-field injury that couldn't be prevented. It's never easy with back-to-back matches, but the support of the players makes a big difference. When everyone buys into the process rather than just following instructions, it makes my job smoother. That awareness and discipline certainly helped us this season," he added.



Boxers question fairness in selection; BFI rejects claims

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Even as women boxers Jyoti Gulia and Neeraj Phogat questioned the fairness of the evaluation process to select the Indian team for the Asian championships, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Monday rejected their claims saying the system was fair.

In separate letters written to the SAI, former World youth champion Jyoti, who was ranked third with a total of 224.45 points as against Nikhat Zareen who topped the 51kg chart with 261.9 in the assessment, and World Boxing Cup Finals bronze medallist Neeraj, who placed fifth with 225.55 against top-ranked Ankushita Boro (267.73) in 65kg, raised doubts over transparency of the process.

While Neeraj cited several instances of selection-related 'irregularities,' including those during the evaluation for the Asian championships, Jyoti claimed that she was the No.1 boxer throughout different assessment tests in her weight class. "I can only beat my opponents."

BFI executive director Col. (retd.) Arun Malik said these allegations were baseless. "The system was absolutely fair and neutral agencies were involved in it. Last year we got good results. Some boxers moved court over the issue in the past but the court upheld our selection process."

As per the BFI policy, boxers reaching the finals in the Asian championships will earn automatic berths for the Commonwealth and Asian Games. "We will give exposure to the second and third ranked boxers by sending them to World Cup legs and other events," said Malik.

Zaheer conducts a camp at CoE

All ears: Zaheer interacting with the speedsters . X@BCCI

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Former India fast bowler Zaheer Khan conducted a camp at the BCCI CoE here for pacers from the high performance monitoring group.

The camp laid emphasis on red-ball bowling, where the players worked closely with Zaheer, who played 92 Tests. Akash Deep, Anshul Kamboj and Tushar Deshpande were some of the players who attended the camp.

Zaheer's inclusion as a mentor comes at a time when India has suffered major reversals in Tests, leading to calls that the next line of long format speedsters must be groomed and developed.

SJFI Natl. Convention in New Delhi from March 13 to 16

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) National Convention 2026 will be held in New Delhi from March 13 to 16, marking the return of the prestigious annual gathering to the national capital after 23 years.

The National Convention, organised by the Delhi Sports Journalist Association (DSJA) will also celebrate the Golden Jubilee of SJFI, making it one of the most significant editions in its history.

The National Convention will bring together sports journalists from the North, East, West and South Zones, along with leading figures from Indian sport, administration and broadcasting.

With the support of major industry stakeholders and prominent brands, the 2026 edition is set to be the largest and most impactful in the federation's history.

The programme includes a Grand Sports Conclave featuring top administrators and Olympic icons, the J.K. Bose interzone T20 cricket tournament, the A.C. Bali table tennis tournament, multi-dimensional family and youth engagement activities like the Modern Pythian Games, and a grand Finals and Closing Ceremony set to be attended by dignitaries.

Juventus pulls off a last-gasp draw at Roma

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Juventus maintained its hopes of reaching next season's Champions League after bouncing back from two goals down to draw 3-3 at top-four rival Roma with nearly the last kick of the game on Sunday.

Federico Gatti lashed home the leveller in the third minute of stoppage time to give Juve a point in Rome which keeps it four points from fourth place which is occupied by Roma.

Juve was trailing 3-1 with 12 minutes remaining after goals from Wesley Franca, Evan Ndicka and Donyell Malen gave Roma a commanding lead in front of over 65,000 delighted fans. But Jeremie Boga volleyed Juve back into the game and just as Roma looked like holding out for the win Gatti pounced on a poorly-defended free-kick to snatch an unlikely point.

Salvaging a point: Gatti fires in Juventus' equaliser. AP

Big boost

Gatti's goal was a huge boost for Juve which was reeling from a painful aggregate defeat to Galatasaray which knocked it out of Europe's top club competition on Wednesday.

In LaLiga, Sevilla also came from two goals down to snatch a thrilling 2-2 derby draw against Real Betis.

Isaac Romero thumped home from outside the box in the 85th minute to salvage his side a point at Betis' temporary La Cartuja home.

The draw leaves Manuel Pellegrini's Betis fifth, eight points behind Atletico Madrid and Villarreal, in third and fourth respectively, hampering its hopes of Champions League qualification.

The results:

LaLiga: Elche 2 (Aguado 42, Mir 90-pen) drew with Espanyol 2 (Garcia 7, Romero 57); Valencia 1 (Ramazani 67-pen) bt Osasuna 0; Real Betis 2 (Antony 16, Fidalgo 37) drew with Sevilla 2 (Sanchez 62, Romero 85); Girona 1 (Vanat 35) lost to Celta Vigo 2 (Jutgla 58, Reis 70-og).

Serie A: Roma 3 (Wesley 39, Ndicka 54, Malen 65) drew with Juventus 3 (Concecaio 48, Boga 78, Gatti 90+3); Torino 2 (Simeone 21, Zapata 53) bt Lazio 0.

Bundesliga: Hamburg 1 (Vieira 22) lost to RB Leipzig 2 (Romulo 36, Diomande 50); Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Chaibi 64, Bahoya 81) bt Freiburg 0; Stuttgart 4 (Undav 21, Leweling 30, 42, Nartey 90+5) bt Wolfsburg 0.